



## From our readers

### GOP never explained why new landfill was approved

Lewiston citizens should not be misled by the rhetoric in the recent letter of Lewiston Councilman Robert E. Lee. In four paragraphs he never did explain why Supervisor James Lombardi and Councilman Richard Kolke voted for another waste dump in the Town of Lewiston at Modern Landfill Inc.

I will explain why the Republican majority on the Town Board should have voted against the Modern landfill.

Mr. Lee is having difficulty seeing the relationship of Modern Landfill and the radioactive Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site, but the investigators for the federal government did not. The Bechtel report to the Department of Energy recommending that the LOOW site be made a permanent repository for radioactive materials included the statement: "Its neighbors are the SCA Hazardous Waste Facility and Modern Disposal sanitary landfill. The use of the site for other than waste management seems unlikely."

The regional director of the Department of Environmental Conservation classified the Town Board action regarding the Modern proposal as "truly negligent." He stated that his "review of the Modern Disposal application indicates that it appears the Town of Lewiston was

remiss in approving this facility without due consideration of the environment." Minutes of the board meeting at which approval was granted show that no effort was made by the Republican majority to provide written conditions to protect the environment or Lewiston citizens.

The old Modern Disposal landfill at Model City and the newly approved dump site of Modern Landfill Inc. are owned and operated by Steve Washuta. Mr. Washuta and Supervisor Lombardi have a business relationship. They have jointly owned a large amount of property in the Model City area. This is proven in deeds on file in Lockport, and their land transactions were reported in the Niagara Gazette on Oct. 5, 1981.

Mr. Washuta has done a poor job in running his present landfill. He was cited for violations by the Niagara County Health Department in 1979 and by the town's own zoning officer in October, 1980, and April, 1981. The Interagency Task Force has identified the Modern Disposal landfill as a confirmed hazardous waste site, despite the fact the old landfill permit allows only limited types of materials to be deposited. Nearby residents have complained bitterly of the conditions at Modern Disposal on many occasions.

Modern plans to release its liquid effluent to the Lewiston Wastewater Treatment Plant. If hazardous wastes are dumped at Modern Landfill, as they apparently were at Modern Disposal, we could suffer the loss of our treatment plant as did the City of Niagara Falls.

The new Modern Landfill must accept sludge and garbage from anywhere, not just Lewiston. The DEC report states that an additional 50 trucks a day will be traveling along Ridge Road and Model City Road to the new dumpsite. (That means one truck every 7 minutes.)

The new Modern site was contaminated with radioactive material from the adjacent LOOW site. Despite decontamination work that was done by Mr. Washuta, it is frightening to think that our wastewater treatment site might become contaminated with radioactive material.

Finally, Mr. Lee should be concerned about the potential effect on the town property values of still another dump site in Lewiston. There are 112 waste sites in Niagara County, and 13 of these are in the Town of Lewiston. Don't we have enough problems, Mr. Lee?

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Lewiston