



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 19, 2008

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[REDACTED]
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Team
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

Re: Proposed Plan for the Seaway Site, Tonawanda, NY, April 2008

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing to you regarding the Proposed Plan for the Seaway Site issued by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Buffalo District Office (USACE). Erie County has consistently supported the safe and effective removal and off-site disposal of radioactive wastes in the Town of Tonawanda originating from the Manhattan Engineering District (MED) activities associated with World War II atomic bomb development.

The USACE is to be commended for efforts to date with the successful implementation of remedial efforts at radioactively contaminated sites in the Town of Tonawanda, particularly cleanups at Ashland 1 and 2, and Rattlesnake Creek. The elimination of the stigma associated with radioactive contamination has contributed toward renewed interest in the redevelopment of this strategic commercial corridor in the Town.

The U. S. Department of Energy, and subsequently the USACE, has been studying the nature and extent of radioactive contamination at the Seaway site since the early 1990's. The investigations have found widespread contamination at the site, in some instances mixed with, and buried by, municipal and industrial solid waste. Studies have identified close to 70,000 cubic yards of contaminated material on the surface, perimeter, within and adjacent to the landfill. The USACE preferred Alternative 6 proposes containment of these radioactively contaminated materials through capping and long term monitoring, along with minimal excavation and off-site disposal of wastes outside of the proposed cap area.

Erie County continues to take the position that the risks associated with, and the burden imposed by, radioactive contamination from MED waste materials must be eliminated for the safety of residents, protection of the environment and future reuse of impacted and adjacent properties. The Seaway Landfill is located along River Road in the Town of

Tonawanda, near the Niagara River and the Niagara Section of the New York State Thruway. The site is located within the boundaries of the Tonawanda Brownfield Opportunity Area (TBOA) currently under study for economic revitalization. Consistent with the goals and objectives of both the County and Town of Tonawanda to protect public health, the environment and encourage redevelopment of the Niagara River corridor, we call for the USACE to pursue the implementation of Alternative 2 which calls for complete excavation and off-site disposal. The removal of all contaminated soils will protect a primary source of fresh water, compliment cleanup actions at adjacent properties, eliminate MED radioactive contaminated wastes from the Niagara River corridor and facilitate efforts toward future regional redevelopment.

Sincerely,



ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Erie County Executive