



CITY OF TONAWANDA, NEW YORK

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Common Council

Council President

1st Ward

2nd Ward

3rd Ward

4th Ward

July 19, 2007

Commissioner [REDACTED]
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Subject: Town of Tonawanda Landfill

Dear Commissioner [REDACTED]

I wanted to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to sit down with members of Clean Up Riverview's Environment (C.U.R.E.) to discuss problems with the Town of Tonawanda Landfill. I'm requesting that the next time you are in town to please take the time to meet with the residents of the Riverview Heights area to hear first hand the problems we all face on an everyday basis.

It is my understanding that the initial Gamma Ray walkover of properties along Hackett Dr., Wadsworth Ct., and Riverview Elementary School has come back clean. That doesn't surprise me. This walkover only tested for radiation in the first few inches of soil. With any development, "clean" fill is brought in to help bring any subdivision up to grade. I would assume that more than a couple of inches of soil were added to each property before construction started, therefore rendering the walkover useless.

Many residents have raised ranches or basements that are part of their "living" space. Most of these basements go down 8 feet and also have sump pumps. There is also a natural spring that runs underneath the landfill and, due to topography, brings water under the homes along Hackett Dr. This water could be contaminated with PCBs, VOCs, POPs, heavy metals, or radiation and has the potential to enter homes through sump pumps. What I'm requesting is that the DEC does soil borings on resident's properties, that we're initially part of the walkover, and Riverview Elementary School down to a depth of 20 feet. This, not a "walkover", will give a more accurate account of what, if anything, has migrated off of the landfill an onto resident's properties. Sump pump water should also be included in any further testing.

I am also very disappointed in the local DEC office here in Buffalo. To this day numerous letters I've sent and concerns from residents have gone unanswered. To date the DEC is still allowing Ensol to continue operations without any dust control measures. I feel the DEC has failed miserably at protecting the resident's best interests. This is something that I hope will change in the near future.

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I thank you for your time and consideration in these matters and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



4th Ward Councilmember
City of Tonawanda