

# TONAWANDA NEWS

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NORTH TONAWAND

## LANDFILL MEETING LEAVES RESIDENTS SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS



PHOTOS BY DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**UPSET:** John Plyler of Hackett Drive in the City of Tonawanda asks Steve Buechi of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if testing for radioactivity was done on the residential side of the fence adjacent to the Town of Tonawanda landfill.

### Officials defend themselves from onslaught of questions

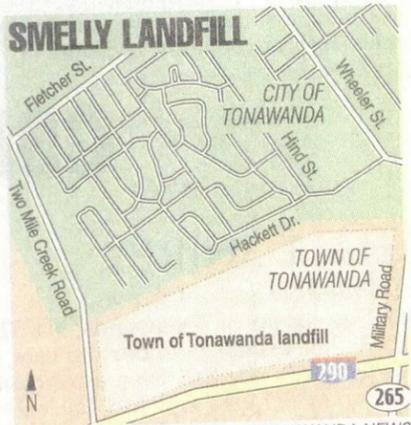
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Frustrated City of Tonawanda residents took their concerns out on the main players involved with the Town of Tonawanda landfill Thursday, accusing them of lying and not caring about the potential health issues of radioactive materials found in the landfill.

"We're (ticked) off," said David Moran, who lives on Hackett Drive, the street bordering the landfill in the city. "You're putting every person in our family at risk."

Roughly 175 people attended the tempestuous meeting at Tonawanda High School, which had been hailed by officials as a unique opportunity for city residents and elected officials to meet face-to-face with those players, which included members of the state Department of Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Town of Tonawanda.

The meeting had intended to be a calm discussion of issues swirling around the landfill, which range from levels of radioactivity left there from the nation's early atomic energy program and radioactive americium left after Town of Tonawanda company, EAD Metallurgical, disposed of the material in a way that it ended up in the landfill.



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A set of presentations was set up before a short break and opportunity for residents to ask questions in three-minute intervals.

But the presentations were interrupted frequently by members of the audience, who more often than not fired questions at the panel from their seats.

Members of the panel tried to explain their actions regarding the landfill.

Steve Buechi, project manager for the Army Corps at the landfill, recited now familiar positions of radioactivity that falls just beneath federal guide

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#### STREET TALK

**QUESTION:** Overall, were you satisfied with the presentation at the landfill meeting?



**Dennis Tarasek**  
City of Tonawanda

"No. Since they closed the landfill in 1989, the city and town have done nothing. They didn't tell us about the radiation."



**Eugene Parks**  
City of Tonawanda

"It's fine up to this point. I see a little pattern forming in that they're not willing to stop and evaluate the situation. I feel we have been left out of the process to this point."



**Chris Thomas**  
City of Tonawanda

"They're completely wrong according to their own info. They're playing around with the words ... They should test everyone's land to see what's really going on."