

Interview with Mayor Alice Roth, City of Tonawanda  
10:45 a.m - noon, 8/16/00

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District will be interviewing various representatives of the Tonawanda community regarding their information needs during the remedial investigation of the Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity property.

How sensitive is the Tonawanda area to environmental issues on a scale from 1-10? (1 being very low, 10 being very high)

*8. The general community is lower, but there are a few people with a heightened interest that pulls it higher.*

What is the most important environmental problem facing the community today?

*Rattlesnake Creek and the Tonawanda Landfill*

What individuals/organizations do you consider most credible when it comes to environmental issues in the Tonawanda community?

*For me, CANiT because I work with them. For the community, FACTS*

What special interests or concerns do you have about the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity property?

*The time frame is a problem. You don't want to notify there is a problem and in the same breath tell them it will be several years before you are going to do anything about it.*

*Funding is another issue, I want to make sure that you do not have to tell us that something needs to be done, but there are no funds available.*

*People that moved in the area after 1989 are not aware of what is in the Landfill. Some of the houses were built in the 1950's and 1960's.*

*The Niagara Mohawk lines were built in the 1980's. The Brookside Court houses are newer. Very few people are aware of the contamination in the Landfill. The people on Hackett Street do not know.*

*If you divide the site into two units, one being the Mudflats and the other the Landfill, I want the Landfill to go first because it is closer to people.*

*People's property values will be affected.*

*There are health concerns. Even if the Landfill is not responsible, cancers and other health problems in the neighborhood will be blamed on the Landfill.*

If you had a question or concern about the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity property, who would you contact?

*The Corps.*

How would you describe the level of community interest/concern regarding the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity property?

*Currently relatively low. That will change dramatically when the community becomes aware.*

What would be the best way to keep the community informed/involved?

*I think a good phone line that the community can call for information would be good. A Corps # that they can call directly. Periodic mailings would be good too. You should start with a meeting with the Common Council before January. It might be a good idea to update the community about the Landfill when you are notifying them of the results for Rattlesnake Creek. Then it would seem like you were closing the book on one area and moving on to the next. Then it seems like a methodical process.*

*It is better to have the issue brought to the table when there is a plan already in place.*

How often would you like to be provided with information regarding the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity property?

*Quarterly is probably good. A meeting with the counsel, a news letter, a news release before sampling.*

Can you suggest anyone else we should contact or who might want to be included on the mailing list?

Is there anything else you would like to mention that we have not talked about?

*I think we are making a mistake if we do not err on the side of caution by increasing security at the site. People should be made aware that the material is there and should be informed that there is not a current risk that we know of, but that they might not want to let their kids play in the Landfill because there are some levels there. Give the impression have things under control through the whole Tonawanda area. Come up with a logic the public will accept. There are no secrets here.*

Other comments:

*The City of Tonawanda Engineer, [REDACTED] should be involved any future TPP meetings and any work plans or reports should be sent to him for review as well.*

*We need to be involved in developing the sampling plans.*

*It seems like the DOE investigated a very small section of both the Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats. For the public's mental health the area near the school and that backs up to the property lines for houses should be investigated.*

*A lot of the land there has been moved around.*

*We need the areas tested. The council would agree for the people's peace of mind.*

*Even if it is within guidelines we need assurance there are no reasons for people to be worried about health concerns.*

*Their property values will be affected as well.*

*Concern was expressed about migration and groundwater.*

*Until the level of contamination is known, the area should be more secure.*

*The City would prefer the Mudflats are not split off from the Landfill. If they are split off the City would want the funding to be provided for the Landfill first. The end uses will be different, but because of the priority toward health and safety and the easy access issue the Landfill should be dealt with first.*

*Looking at the schedule, it seems to take a long time for you to get moving.*

*The community could easily be startled. It will be difficult to satisfy them with a two year plan since they will be concerned that it may be harming their health.*