CITY OF TONAWANDA, NEW YORK

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Common Council

Council President	1st Ward	2nd Ward	3rd Ward	4th Ward

July 19, 2007

███████████████

District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara St.
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

Subject: Extension of Public Comment Period

███████████████

    I wanted to thank you for extending the Public Comment Period associated with the Town of Tonawanda Landfill to August 23rd. I am asking you, however, to extend it until the end of the year. In light of the preliminary Gamma ray walkover of resident's properties along Hackett Dr., Wadsworth Ct., and Riverview Elementary School, I have asked the NYSDEC to conduct core soil samples and sump pump analysis of those same properties.

    I believe a simple Gamma Ray walkover did not and will not paint the complete picture of what residents could be dealing with on their own properties. Since "clean" fill was used in the development of the Riverview Heights area, the soil the NYSDEC tested should come back clean. What I'm worried about is the potential contamination below that clean fill that wouldn't show up on a walkover. Many residents in the area have refinished basements. These basements sit well below the testing thresholds for a walkover. There is also a natural spring that runs under the unlined landfill that could be contaminated. This ground water then has the potential to seep up through resident's sump pumps, thus introducing it into their homes.

    Once the Public Comment Period is closed, your agency would them start formulating your Record of Decision. I think you'd agree that formulating a Record of Decision would be premature given the fact that you didn't have all the test results at your disposal.

    I hope you will agree with my assessment and extend the Public Comment Period until the end of the year. Thank you for your time in this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

███████████████

4th Ward Councilmember
City of Tonawanda