

WRITTEN COMMENTS

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property FUSRAP Site
April 25, 2007

Name: [REDACTED] Phone: _____

Group Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: Buffalo State: NY Zip Code: _____

Do you wish to be added to our site mailing list? Yes _____ No ☒

Would you like to submit a written comment tonight? (if so, fill in below and place in the "feedback box." You also have until the end of the public comment period for the Proposed Plan, which closes on June 26, 2007 – you can send your comments to the:

Buffalo District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ATTN: S. Buechi, PM-F)
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

1.) On page 12 of your "Response to Questions Submitted at the February 8, 2007 Public Information Regarding the Town of Tonawanda Landfill" you state that "Growing older is the biggest risk factor for getting cancer." I have 3 questions regarding this comment.

- Has it been scientifically established that this is indisputably *because* of our natural aging process? And if so, explain cultures throughout the world that report longevity and yet little or no cancer.
- Have you considered that residents' bodies must, over time, process a serious cocktail of contaminants from this FUSRAP site and other nearby sites? If we accept that these contaminants do not, in and of themselves, trigger cancer, then in the interest of science we must also probe the possibility that these contaminants could be triggering what you have called the "biggest risk factor." In short, I want to know how these contaminants can prematurely age a body over time, and I want to know this affects your risk assessment.
- "Age" and "time of exposure" are not mutually exclusive. Some of these residents are in their fifties and have also spent fifty years near this FUSRAP site. How do you determine that the high rates of cancer here are due to their age and not their time of exposure?

Questions Continued
on back...

2.) Shortly after 9/11 the EPA told residents to return to their apartments even though the air, as we found out later, was extremely contaminated. Firefighters were specifically told that it was ok to work in the rubble without filtration masks, and many of these firefighters are now dead or dying. While I'd like to respect the EPA because it was created with good intentions in mind, I am concerned that they've lost credibility because of 9/11 and also because they have been working closely with the Bush Administration, which is infamous for loosening environmental laws. Until our EPA behaves like an Environmental Protection Agency should, would you consider basing your cleanup decision on stricter data?

3.) When saying that the cancer rates do not seem higher than "what is to be expected" in the areas surrounding this FUSRAP site, it does not seem to correlate with what the residents have seen and experienced. Would you consider undertaking a new survey, one that goes door-to-door? (I know this cannot be too expensive because Buffalo went door-to-door to collect dog registration fees.) I believe there would even be people who'd volunteer to help you collect data for this survey. I just don't want to see you make a decision based on what could be bad data. It would be a great comfort to the residents of these afflicted neighborhoods if you could see what they see, and then make your decision.

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