



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. LYNNE DIXON
LEGISLATOR
DISTRICT 9

July 1, 2015

Ms. Abby Snyder
Regional Director
NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Tecumseh Business Park in Lackawanna

Dear Ms. Snyder:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) recently announced that toxic remnants found at the Bethlehem Steel Co. coke plant and surrounding facilities would be dug up and buried in an alternative Lackawanna site as part of continuing efforts to address brownfield site contamination. Some of the primary contaminants found at the Tecumseh location by NYSDEC include ammonia, arsenic, lead, mercury, cyanide and benzene. The plan put forward addresses three (3) of the forty-four (44); or about 7% of the contaminated areas at the location.

I appreciate efforts being made by your department to address the issue. We need to work together to help protect the health and public safety of residents from pollutants that have infected the soil of Lackawanna for decades. But I do not believe the proposed solution is sufficient.

I request that the NYSDEC consider full removal of all the affected areas. Simply moving the contaminated soil a few yards away will not address the issues or remove the long-term dangers. Lake Erie, one of our nation's greatest natural resources, will remain in danger from chemical contamination as the proposed location is 1,500 feet away from the shores of Lake Erie.

The best thing we can do for the City of Lackawanna, the health of our residents and the future of the Bethlehem Steel site is pursuit of full relocation of the contaminated areas.

Lackawanna has an opportunity to take advantage of the growing development on the waterfront as it begins to move south from the City of Buffalo. Failing, today, to remove and completely relocate the toxic waste away from our residents and freshwater supply could continue to impact the economic development and safety of our area for future generations.

I appreciate solutions, but I don't think the goal should be stabilization. I think the goal should be complete removal of highly toxic contaminate so that the site is usable for whatever purposes are deemed appropriate in the future by the residents and officials of the City of Lackawanna.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust you will fully consider the impact of the minor relocation on the health and safety of the residents of Lackawanna and the possibility for continued damage and contamination to Lake Erie.

Sincerely,



Lynne Dixon
Erie County Legislator #9

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo
Assemblyman Sean Ryan
Senator Timothy Kennedy
Mayor Geoffrey Szymanski
Hamburg Supervisor Steven Walters