

I plan to give this testimony at the Statehouse tomorrow in support of Senator Reineke's proposed legislation.

Please heed our dire warnings. We care about the future of Seneca County. The decision to give another permit to Sunny Farms Landfill landfill will affect many generations to come. The issue of waste-by-rail has been devastating towns all over the USA, at every location it creeps into. The beautiful, rural, small towns are prime targets for this business. In their eyes we are small in numbers and low in funds. Then, when our railroads and lack of zoning are considered, we are the prime targets for the out-of-state toxins that "have to go somewhere". Some compare our situation to Flint, Michigan. We cannot avoid breathing our current aircontamination, and if our water also becomes contaminated, it will not be contained. It will flow into the soil, and larger waterways which could reach the Great Lakes.

In 2008, the Sunny Farm Landfill had been in serious violation for which they were fined \$850,000 by the EPA -and the majority of that money went back to the EPA, not our suffering community. Their second location in New Lexington, Ohio has already been sued for their negligence. The landfill continues to violate and cut corners, while only getting slapped on the wrist by the Attorney General and the EPA.

The contents of the landfill were unknown to the public. City officials have been telling residents for a decade that it is "just construction debris". A review of Sunny Farm's current website tells us they accept contaminated soil, sewer sludge, PCB bulk product materials, pharmaceuticals, biohazardous waste and a long list of "specialty" waste. Specialty waste is described as, waste that "poses an unusual threat to human health, property or the environment". A normal, local landfill does not pose these risks.

SFL contains cancer causing agents such as PCB, fuel oil, toxic gypsum drywall from China, and many other chemicals such as VOC and forever chemicals. All of this abuts farm land, where crops are growing for consumption as well as waterways that will likely become contaminated. There is insufficient oversight for a landfill of this size and scope. This landfill will be the largest in the state with 12,000 tons entering each day with no one watching each railcar to determine it's contents.

Any landfill that is responsible for this type of material should be highly regulated and have strict oversight to prevent contamination of our groundwater, as well as protection for employees and residents. Instead we have the opposite. The leachate (toxic water coming off of the mountain of trash) and the high gasses are a serious health risk. Exposed rail cars full of trash sit for days, lined up on the tracks next to creeks, in the rain and snow. Currently, they have requested two air permits to allow excessive gasses and dust to continue for five years or more, which is inhaled causing respiratory diseases. The Clean Air Act violations are allowed here.

The community organized in 2012 to revolt against the possible expansion of SFL. The EPA ignored our complaints and on 2/12/13, they allowed the expansion of SFL for \$30,000 and a list of "promises" never kept. At the time they approved the expansion, the cover wasn't thick enough and caps were not in place causing ongoing odor problems. They put in an odor complaint hotline number, but never informed anyone about it. For the few people that were aware the hotline existed; we called relentlessly. The majority of citizens just gave up. The EPA and local authorities did nothing to push back, and continued to sign the permits every year. They had 91 known violations, 11 directors final findings and orders, and 6 judicial orders against them. So, here we are today with the threat of another huge expansion--adding 3 more cells over two country blocks--while the citizens are now suffering health effects and loss of property value as a result of ongoing admitted mismanagement. In 2017, our wastewater treatment plant, which has a contract to take in the landfill leachate, was given permission by the EPA to discharge overflow into Portage River. We are concerned about Lake Erie. PFAS cannot be removed from leachate. The landfill creates 548,364 gallons of toxic leachate, and that number will soon double. The transfer station is unlined and leachate contaminates the ground. The system of transporting to Marion was supposed to be a temporary system. Leaks and spills occur, and then the waste water treatment plant discharges those chemicals to waterways.

For many months, we were living with poor air quality, waking up in the middle of the night to stench in our bedrooms, unable to open doors or windows or even go outside. Trash is in our yards, toxins seeping on the ground- dripping out of rail cars sitting for weeks in the rain next to creeks, and pockets of H<sub>2</sub>S which exceed any standards. This resulted in numerous complaints of headaches, sore throats and eyes, bloody noses, loss of smell, nausea and undrinkable water. According to prior set standards, the landfill agreed to 15 ppb maximum surrounding the perimeter. In 2018 the reading was 182 ppb at the perimeter and 20 ppb five miles away, for outside readings! We were getting much higher doses when it enters our cars/homes and becomes concentrated. Symptoms as described above are known to occur at 7-10 ppb, and over 5 ppb is considered a nuisance odor. There is no safe level for chronic, low-level, long term exposure to Hydrogen Sulfide which is inevitable when gypsum drywall breaks down. Children and pregnant woman are at risk. SFL finally installed flares to burn off the H<sub>2</sub>S as a solution. We have high levels of sulfur dioxide in the air- for which the EPA gave them an air permit. The EPA never required a gas containment system in advance. The system we are currently promised may not ever be finished and may not even work. We also know it is not designed to handle any more than what was present last year-no plan for future growth. We have no guarantee our air will ever be clean. We should have had the gas containment installed prior to having these problems that

affected the health of our community. No permit should be approved as long as gas levels are uncontrolled. The liner is only guaranteed for 30 years and that mountain is very high and heavy. What will happen when it leaches out into the ground? Who will pay for the cleanup and who will suffer health problems? We have been told that the EPA does not have the manpower to oversee the landfill and most is self-monitored. The EPA is only required to visit four times a year, and for two years during Covid, they never came once. This same EPA that allowed all of these violations to occur on their watch, now wants us to believe we will be safe to double the size of this Mega landfill. We should just trust a foreign investment company to self monitor? Given all of these unknowns and risks for groundwater contamination, we believe anyone who is in a position of power would want to consider these risks and heed our warning that no amount of money is worth our health, quality of life, and loss of business and property value in Seneca County. We don't want the reputation of being the largest landfill or the health risks associated with it. We are left with little to no oversight of a billion dollar foreign investment company. This landfill just paid out on another multi-million dollar lawsuit, but that didn't help our community one bit. The money all goes right back to the EPA!

It appears that the EPA has no incentive to stop this business, given the conflict of interest- due to large sums of money flowing into the EPA for this trash by rail service. Chronic low-level H<sub>2</sub>S, SO<sub>2</sub>, methane and other gas exposure needs further study. The liners all eventually fail. What will this foreign investment company leave for our future generations? We deserve fresh air and quality of life at the very least. The increased risks to children, elderly and pregnant women are far too great. We cannot allow one business to destroy the county by allowing these problems to grow exponentially.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Eve M. Bulkowski  
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