



March 1, 2024

Below is the Seneca County Commissioners' response to the letter from WIN Waste Innovations of Seneca County dated February 29, 2024.

WIN Waste's landfill has had a longstanding history of violating the environmental laws, starting decades ago under prior owners and continuing after WIN Waste purchased the landfill in 2019. In 2019, due to the severity of the landfill's noxious odors and other illegal conduct, the Seneca County Board of Health proposed to deny the operating license for the landfill. The Board's action led to a lawsuit and a court order that WIN Waste signed with the State of Ohio giving the landfill more than four years to install an air pollution control system to finally address the landfill's pervasive violations of the state's air pollution laws. While WIN Waste attempts to place a positive spin on this court order, WWSC knew that signing the court order would force the Board of Health, by law, to approve its operating license. The expensive air pollution control system required by this court order is not an investment in improvements; this expense was necessary to remedy the environmental damage caused by the landfill's mismanagement and blatant disregard for the law. These facts contradict WIN Waste's constant claims that it has had a history of superior compliance.

Recent events belie WIN Waste's insistence that it responsibly operates the landfill. At Ohio EPA's recent public hearing on the proposed landfill expansion, the county commissioners displayed a photograph of a railcar that WIN Waste had transported for more than 100 miles by rail from its New Lexington landfill to the WIN Waste landfill in Seneca County with huge gaps in its floor. This railcar was not empty. Although much of the railcar's waste may have been removed at New Lexington, WIN Waste did not bother to remove the rest of the waste from the railcar before dispatching the railcar to Seneca County. Instead, the company deliberately sent the railcar to Fostoria in a deteriorated condition knowing that waste and liquid leachate would spill onto the railroad tracks and onto the landfill's rail staging area. Although it was fortunate that the health district's laboratory analyses did not detect toxic contaminants in the waste left in this railcar, this type of waste contains other contaminants that pollute the environment if dumped on the ground. That is why the law requires this waste to be safely interred in a regulated landfill. WIN Waste should apologize for its bad judgment instead of trying to justify it.

This railcar is by no means the only one that arrives at the landfill in a damaged condition. The health district routinely finds other railcars, full of waste, with holes that allow waste to spill into the environment. Because the railcars are open to the elements, liquid leachate leaks from the waste in these railcars onto the ground.

The residents around the landfill have been complaining about the railcar leaks for years. Yet, instead of requiring its customers to use well-maintained railcars, WIN Waste's response to this concern is to initiate litigation against the Board of Health in an attempt to get rid of license conditions designed to correct this pervasive problem.

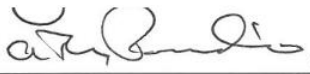


Seneca County Commissioners

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It is true that WIN Waste's importation of many millions of tons of waste from the east coast has infused cash into Seneca County's economy. But no amount of money can compensate the residents of Seneca County for the loss of their quality of life. We will not sell out the residents' health and welfare in exchange for money. Nor will we be dissuaded by WIN Waste's lawsuits and other bullying tactics in our efforts to protect the county's residents.

Sincerely,



Anthony Paradiso



Tyler Shuff



Bill Frankart