

Unregulated Radon Release from Niagara Landfill

We, the undersigned residents of the City of Tonawanda, face a health threat from the existing passive release of radioactive radon gas through vents at the Niagara Landfill (one of five Manhattan Project contaminated properties in the federal Energy Department's Tonawanda Site). The concentration of radon being released was recently measured by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and found to be from 800 to 3000 times the regulatory limit. Despite this, NYSDEC has not required Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI), the landfill operator, to apply for a radiation control permit and says BFI can turn on a biogas extraction system (designed to fuel a proposed electric cogenerator) which will actively pump even more radon from the landfill into residents' air. This is unacceptable to us. We insist that the Department of Energy address this health problem by promptly removing their radioactive waste from this incompatible garbage landfill to a properly licensed radioactive waste storage facility. Until then, NYSDEC should not allow BFI to operate the gas extraction system.

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