
NOYAC CIVIC COUNCIL

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July 25, 2018

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Thank you for your clean water initiatives. I've written to you about water quality issues several times before and now again I am asking for your intervention.

According to the Suffolk County Health Department's June 29, 2018 report "Investigation of Potential Impacts to Groundwater at Wainscott Sand & Gravel/Sand Land Facility, 585 Middle Line Highway, Noyack, N.Y.," the Sand Land Mine is the source of contamination of our aquifer. The aquifer, located beneath the Mine, is the source of our water for the entire East End of Long Island for everyone. This includes those who have private wells and those who obtain water from Suffolk County Water. Unsafe levels of Arsenic, lead, manganese, iron, radioactive elements and other heavy metals are among the contaminants found by the Health Departments. (By the way, it took a lawsuit and 2 years of litigation for Sand land to allow test wells to be installed by the Health Department at the site.) A DEC's water test sample taken May 8, 2015 from a pool of water on-site showed Chlordane, DEET, pesticides, heavy metals and carcinogens.

The Mine does not have any sand left to mine. Over the years it has become a giant vegetative organic mulching operation. It also crushes and processes construction and demolition debris which includes concrete, treated wood, and asphalt. In January, 2104 the Mine applied for a permit to expand the mine by 4.9 acres and excavate an additional 40 feet down since no sand was left to mine. If granted, this permit would place the operations significantly closer to our aquifer. Judge McClymonds in his January 29, 2018 decision asked the CAO, in this case Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, to decide if mining is allowed in Southampton. Supervisor Schneiderman replied that no new mines are allowed according to the Town Code in his July 18, 2018 letter. Our Supervisor's letter has not deterred the Mine from operating on a daily basis. In other words, Sand Land continues to contaminate our water supply unchecked. Sand Land's current permit will expire on November 4, 2018.

Where is the DEC in this matter? The Noyac Civic Council has invited representatives from the DEC several times to attend one of our meetings and our 2 press conferences on March 9, 2018 and July 13, 2018. No one has ever attended to answer questions from the community most affected by this contamination. I asked the DEC to respond to the Health Department's June 29, 2018 report. Again, no one responded to my request. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am with the lack of response from the agency which is supposed to be overseeing our environmental problems. Can you intervene and stop this contamination from continuing? Many of the enclosures will give you a brief history of the Mine and community concerns. We need your help. Please do not let us down.

I would like to take you to see this Mine from a neighboring piece of property the next time you are visiting the East End. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elena Loreto, President NCC
631-725-3304

Enclosures:

Health Commissioner Tomarken letter to Sup. Throne-Holst October 23, 2013
Sup. Throne-Holst letter to Peter Scully, DEC, October 29, 2013
Horseblock Road Groundwater Report July 23, 2013
Assemblyman Thiele, Jr.'s letter to Joseph Martens, DEC April 30, 2014
NCC letter to Peter Scully, DEC, May 23, 2014
NCC letter to Gov. Cuomo and Mark Carrara, DEC, August 14, 2014
Town Supervisor Throne-Holst letter to Mark Carrara, DEC, August 14, 2017
Joseph Martens, DEC, letter to NCC, Sept. 29, 2014
NCC letter to Gov. Cuomo, November 7, 201
NCC letter to Commissioner Martens, DEC, cc/ Gov. Cuomo, December 11, 2014
Peter Scully, DEC letter to NCC, January 29, 2015
Wainscott Sand and Gravel Grand Reopening letter, October 1, 2016

Archives:

The News, Bridgehampton November 17, 1961 NCC
ZBA Minutes November 22, 1961
NCC Minutes April 11, 1962

Cc/Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr.
Legislator Bridget Fleming
Supervisor Jay Schneiderman
Robert DeLuca, Group for the East End
Adrienne Esposito, Citizens' Campaign for the Environment
Carrie M. Gallagher, Region 1 DEC Commissioner