



City of Rochester, NY
Rochester City Council

City Hall Room 301A • 30 Church Street • Rochester, New York 14614-1290

James Patrick Smith, Chief of Staff to Rochester City Council

September 20, 2023

Commissioner Basil Seggos
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233

RE: Memorializing Resolution File #0006-23; ***Opposing the Increase of the Permitted Landfill Height and Extended Life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.***

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

Attached is Memorializing Resolution File Number 0006 of 2023, which was recently submitted to the Rochester City Council. This item is entitled: ***Opposing the Increase of the Permitted Landfill Height and Extended Life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.***

Please note, Resolution File Number 0006 of 2023 was signed by all Nine members of the Rochester City Council.

Respectfully Forwarded,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James P. Smith".

James Patrick Smith
Chief of Staff

attachments



Memorializing Resolution of the City Council #0006-23
Sponsored by: **Mitch Gruber** Councilmember At-Large

September 20, 2023

To The Honorable
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to Oppose the Increase Of the Permitted Landfill Height and Extended Life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Transmittal to urge the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to oppose the increase of the permitted landfill height and extended life of Seneca Meadows, Inc., and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

WHEREAS, We, the undersigned members of the Rochester City Council urge the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) to oppose the increase of the permitted landfill height and extended life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Seneca Meadows, Inc. (SMI) is seeking to increase the life of its existing landfill (“Landfill”) located at 1786 Salcman Road in the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo, Seneca County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the project would add approximately 47 million cubic yards of air space used for the disposal of non-hazardous residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes in the proposed SMI Valley Infill Area (“Valley Infill”); and

WHEREAS, The Valley Infill will involve the construction of approximately 47 acres of newly lined landfill area, as well as overfilling above approximately 191 acres of currently permitted landfill area, and also result in an increase in the existing maximum permitted Landfill height by about 70 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill is the largest of 27 landfills in New York State, and the approved design capacity of the Landfill, which is 6,000 tons per day, produces up to 200,000 gallons of polluted leachate per day; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of SMI are felt by Rochester residents due to the negative climate impacts of methane emissions and overall harmful environmental impacts of SMI; and

Memorializing the Commissioner of the NYS DEC to Oppose the Increase Of the Permitted Landfill Height and Extended Life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.

WHEREAS, traffic to and from the existing Landfill site impacts the Finger Lakes community beyond the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo, presents a visual blight upon entering the Finger Lakes area from the Thruway, and thereby is incompatible with the community character of the region. In conjunction with unmitigated odors emanating therefrom, which already negatively impacts regional roads, as well as air quality and environmental conditions in the immediate area, causes these neighborhoods adjacent thereto to be designated disadvantaged communities by the NYSDEC; and

WHEREAS, The City of Rochester is not currently named as an interested party, however the residents of the City will be directly affected by the potential Landfill site expansion and extended life, as the City of Rochester is a part of the Finger Lakes and the expansion would have a detrimental impact on the economy of the Finger Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the impact of a landfill decreases the value of properties, increases greenhouse gases, violates New York's climate law and guidelines as proposed by the Climate Action Council, and provides the potential for additional toxins to impact the region;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, We, the undersigned Members of Rochester City Council, oppose any increase in the existing maximum permitted Landfill height by about 70 feet, as well as the extension of the life of the landfill by approximately 15 years, without due consideration of its impact on adjacent communities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we seek that the City of Rochester be named an interested party due to the impacts on our community and therefore request an enhanced public participation process for this proposed expansion, and request Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation oppose the increase of the permitted landfill height and extended life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.

Sincerely,



Mitch Gruber, Councilmember
At-Large Representative

Memorializing the Commissioner of the NYS DEC to Oppose the Increase Of the Permitted Landfill Height and Extended Life of Seneca Meadows, Inc.

The following Councilmembers join their colleague in support of Memorializing Resolution 0006-23:



Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., President
At-Large Representative



Mary Lupien, Vice President
East District Representative



LaShay D. Harris, Councilmember
South District Representative



Willie Lightfoot, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Stanley Martin, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Mike Patterson, Councilmember
Northeast District Representative



Jose Peo, Councilmember
Northwest District Representative



Kim Smith, Councilmember
At-Large Representative