

Senate Committee,

The questions and comments to follow are in reference to the three fill projects currently underway in this region: Coplay, Palmerton, and East Bangor. The remediation projects in these locations may have initially begun with the best of intentions, but have now spiraled out of control with massive amounts of out-of-state, contaminated fill being hauled into our state and our communities.

To date, TENS OF MILLIONS OF TONS of supposed “clean fill” have been hauled into our state from New York and New Jersey. Currently, 500 to 600 tri-axel load trucks are dumping this fill into our communities DAILY! At this rate, how is it possible to monitor this activity? The current Pennsylvania regulations and standards are inadequate and downright dangerous to the citizens of our communities.

Due to the grave concerns that have come to light, including the discovery of PCBs at the Coplay site, to follow are a list of questions that we as concerned citizens and stakeholders have a need to have answered to protect our water, our environment, and our health.

1. New Jersey will not allow this fill to enter their own wetlands or waters, so why is it permitted in Pennsylvania?
2. With having new storm water run-off regulations in place, the goal is to have water seep back into the ground and not run-off into streams or drains. Most projects require some sort of RETENTION POND. By filling our natural, water-filled quarries (aka RETENTION PONDS) we are doing just the opposite. Plus, adding even steeper slopes than before. Why are we filling in perfectly functioning, natural retention ponds?
3. There are currently 340 concentration limits set for the metals, organics, and inorganics in Pennsylvania’s clean fill standard. How many comparison tests have been performed on the TENS OF MILLIONS OF TONS of fill that been dumped into our community?
4. What happens when our citizens drinking water becomes polluted?
5. How can I have a core and water sample complete?
6. Why does it take so long to rectify a contamination violation and why can these companies continue to dump even after contamination has been discovered?
7. How can you possibly justify these remediation projects when the health and welfare of our citizens is in jeopardy?

Remediation Pros and Cons

Pros

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Cons

Water contamination

Storm water run-off

Destruction of wetlands and springs

Harmful effects to our wildlife

Overburden the DEP

Roads destroyed at tax payers expense

Accidents, injuries, fatalities

Public complaints

Homes and businesses uprooted

