

Mentz Opposed to Manure Lagoon List of Concerns

1. Our ground water – We all use well water as there is no public water available. (Cayuga County told me to have the water tested immediately and yearly until the nitrates and chloroform appear. It will be too late then.) We are also certain that we can prove that the runoff from that hill does, in fact, drain into the Seneca River Outlet which connects to Auburn and Cayuga and Owasco lakes as well as the Erie Canal and other bodies of water.

Response – The lagoon was designed in accordance with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) standards #313 for storage and #521 for synthetic liners and includes a very protective HDPE liner to prevent seepage into the ground. There is also native heavy clay beneath the liner to provide additional protection against groundwater seepage. Additionally, the lagoon is designed with a leak detection system to collect groundwater from around the lagoon and direct it to a nearby observation port. Regarding stormwater runoff, we have confirmed that runoff would not impact Owasco or Cayuga Lakes, as project runoff flows towards the Owasco Outlet which discharges to the Seneca River.

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3. Our air quality – In addition to manure, there will be rotten vegetables and other food matter inserted into this pond. The site is on a hill with a prevailing north northwest wind. This smell will literally carry over our land and through the town.

Response – The primary materials to be placed into the lagoon are digested/stabilized organics such as food waste and manure. One of the benefits of the digester is that it breaks down and stabilizes the manure and food waste over several weeks, thus reducing odors in the final product. Also, the material will be pumped out of the lagoon and injected into the soil using drag line equipment, thus reducing odors compared to surface spraying type application.

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6. Local wildlife impact will be immediate and widespread, especially since there is currently no fencing around the site and no permits drawn to install one, as of our current research.

Response - The lagoon construction project includes a permanent high tensile fence that will surround the lagoon. It will be installed towards the end of the construction project.