



*Office of the Town Clerk*  
**TOWN OF SENECA FALLS, NY**

**NICALETTA J. GREER**

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October 5, 2023

Honorable Thomas F. O'Mara  
New York State Senator  
100 W. Church Street, Suite 103  
Elmira, New York 14901

Dear Hon. O'Mara;

I am enclosing herewith copy of a Resolution which was adopted by the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board on October 3, 2023. This Resolution is requesting that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation do an analysis of lung cancer patterns in the census tracts surrounding Seneca Meadows Landfill as part of the Environmental Impact Statement required for the Landfill's Valley Infill Expansion Application.

Sincerely,

NICALETTA J. GREER  
Town Clerk  
Town of Seneca Falls

Enc.



## TOWN OF SENECA FALLS

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October 3, 2023

**RESOLUTION WHEREBY THE TOWN OF SENECA FALLS, NY REQUESTS THAT THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION DO AN ANALYSIS OF LUNG CANCER PATTERNS IN THE CENSUS TRACTS SURROUNDING THE SENECA MEADOWS LANDFILL AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED FOR THE LANDFILL'S VALLEY INFILL EXPANSION APPLICATION.**

**WHEREAS**, Census tract data from the New York State Department of Health for 2011-2015 and 2013 - 2017 as revealed a lung cancer cluster in the area around the Seneca Meadows Landfill and the gas-to-energy plant; and

**WHEREAS**, Seneca County's lung cancer rates continued to rank higher during 2016 - 2020, based on data from National Institutes of Health; and

**WHEREAS**, Additional data is needed to identify which census tracts in Seneca County are driving these higher county rates in 2016-2022; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Seneca Falls is located in the lung cancer "cluster" labeled LU-H-17 by the New York State Department of health; and

**WHEREAS**, Reporting suggests that the higher incidence of lung cancer is due to factors other than radon exposure or higher smoking rates; and

**WHEREAS**, Sewer gas odors are being smelled inside businesses along the Route 414 corridor, in the medical offices, and in the hotel on Balsley Road due to the shared sewer line that also carries leachate to the Seneca Falls WasteWater Treatment Plant and these odors were recently linked to the leachate from the landfill; and

**WHEREAS**, A study by Mataloni, et al. (2016) concluded that exposure to H<sub>2</sub>S was associated with lung cancer mortality and respiratory disease morbidity and mortality (See "*Morbidity and mortality of people who live close to municipal waste landfills: a multisite cohort study*"); and

**WHEREAS**, Evidence suggests an association between H<sub>2</sub>S and acute respiratory infections in children and Seneca Meadows Landfill is located less than three miles from all schools in the town of Seneca Falls and Waterloo; and

**WHEREAS**, Seneca Meadows Landfill currently has over 70 million tons of waste in place and has applied for an expansion to add another 40 million tons of waste through 2040, increasing the permitted landfill height by about 70 feet, from 774 feet to 843.5 feet above sea level; and



## TOWN OF SENECA FALLS

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**WHEREAS**, New York State has identified the Town of Seneca Falls as a disadvantaged community that bears the combined burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and also possesses certain socioeconomic criteria of low- and moderate-income households; and

**WHEREAS**, As per Seneca Falls Town Code Section 185-5 Landfill Permit Requirements, Section E. Conditions, it is the responsibility of The Town Board to impose conditions on the construction and operation of any landfill as may be necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare or the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that that in order to protect public health, safety, welfare, and the environment, the Seneca Falls Town Board requests that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation includes an analysis of the lung cancer patterns in the census tracts surrounding the Seneca Meadows Landfill as part of the Environmental Impact Statement required for the landfill's Valley Infill expansion application.

Motioned by: Steve Churchill Seconded by: Frank Sinicropi

TOWN BOARD	AYES	NAYES
Councilman Steve Churchill	X	
Councilwoman Dawn Dyson	X	
Councilwoman Kaitlyn Laskoski	X	
Councilman Frank Sinicropi	X	
Supervisor Michael J. Ferrara	X	
Carried and Adopted	YES	

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Thomas Haley, Regional Permit Administrator  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414-9519

The Honorable Jeff Gallahan *ny State Assembly*  
~~70 Elizabeth Blackwell Street~~  
Geneva, NY 14456

The Honorable Thomas F. O'Mara *ny State Senator*  
~~100 West Church Street~~  
Suite 103  
Elmira, NY 14901

Scott King, Director  
Seneca County Health Department  
2465 Bonadent Drive  
Suite 3  
Waterloo, NY 13165