An official website of the United States Government.

Back to Document Comments (/document/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360-0001/comment)

Share

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Comment submitted by BluePrint Geneva, Inc.

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 25, 2025

Docket (/docket/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360)
/ Document (EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360-0001) (/document/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360-0001) / Comment

Comment

Our agency, BluePrint Geneva, Inc. serves the multi-county Finger Lakes region in Upstate NY. EPA is currently doing PFAS and other contaminant cleanup at the former Sampson military base, the creeks of which feed our Seneca Lake Watershed. We have the Greenidge converted coal-powered plant running as a Bitcoin mining operation using water from Seneca Lake to cool the computers and then discharging that hot water back onto lake. We have leachate from landfills being treated by wastewater plants that discharge to Seneca Lake, as well as the Bruno Bock thiochemical plant also contaminating the groundwater. In addition to Greenidge's smokestack, we have the Guardian Glass plant smokestack with its sulfuric acid mist being discharged directly adjacent to one of the largest public housing developments in the area. The horizon is also dotted with the peaks of the two trash mountains--the Casella-managed Ontario County Landfill just to the west and the Waste Connections Seneca Meadows landfill, just to the east. Seneca Meadows is in the top 10 largest landfills in the country and we have a third mega landfill, Waste Management's High Acres to the northwest of us. All of these industries are served by rail and truck traffic that criss crosses through the city of Geneva, NY. It's no surprise that the truck routes and rail sidings are located in the census tracts with the highest regional poverty and unemployment rates. In addition, the city of Geneva is racially diverse community and the environmental hazards of the city coalesce on the least-wealthy, least-white, high-rental-rate neighborhoods. Industries pick areas where the economic hardships make residents sitting ducks for pollution. Couple the economic distress with the data that shows decreased political participation in certain demographics and you have a recipe for lax local standards and enforcement. What's resulted are environmental sacrifice zones without any acknowledgement of, or compensation for, same. We appreciate the work of the EPA to document, measure, and track these cumulative impacts. We request that cumulative impact assessments, using metrics like the CJ Screener and/or the NYS disadvantaged communities criterion, serve as the basis of required consideration for siting, expansion, or other permitting and monitoring of industrial facilities. Where a project must continue to operate, we ask that the EPA recognize the need for compensatory measures such as investments in mitigating strategies such as water filtration, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, green space and tree canopy investments, and public health initiatives.

Give Feedback

Comment ID

EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360-0079

Tracking Number

m76-t92n-ymh3

Comment Details

Document Subtype

Company/Organization Comment

Received Date

Feb 15, 2025

Postmark Date

Feb 15, 2025

Page Count

1

Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

About (/about) Bulk Data Download (/bulkdownload) Agencies (/agencies) Learn (/learn) Reports (/dotreports) FAQ (/faq)

Commenting Guidance (/commenting-guidance)

Give Feedback

Privacy & Security Notice (/privacy-notice) | User Notice (/user-notice) | Accessibility Statement (/accessibility) | API Requests (https://open.gsa.gov/api/regulationsgov/) | FOIA (https://www.gsa.gov/reference/freedom-of-information-act-foia)

Support (/support)

Give Feedback