

Seneca Lake Guardian statement to WaterFront. Feb. 12, 2023

SLG has been sounding the alarm on these forever chemicals for years. We met with Senator Gillibrand's staff in 2019 to discuss our concerns about the PFAS plumes detected at the former Seneca Army Depot, but nothing came of that meeting. We've requested more information from the NYS Department of Health about these plumes, and been consistently stonewalled. High concentrations of PFAS in fresh water fish is particularly alarming since many families rely on this as a major source of food and could experience food scarcity without it. The bottom line is that New York needs to get a handle on the problem of PFAS, set safe limits across the board, find out where PFAS is coming from, and clean up our waterways. New York's largest landfill, Seneca Meadows, produces 75 million gallons of PFAS-laden leachate every year, and over 3/4 of it gets dumped, untreated, into waterways across New York State including Buffalo, Chittenango, Watertown, and Steuben County. Closing this landfill by 2025 as originally planned would be vitally important in protecting our waters from PFAS contamination. SLG is working with Senator Rachel May and Assemblymember Anna Kelles on the [PFAS Surface Water Discharge Disclosure Act](#), which would require testing for and disclosure of PFAS chemicals. We can't start regulating these chemicals unless and until we know the source of contamination, and this would be a good first step.