

**Statement of Seneca Lake Guardian regarding Peter Mantius' Article:
"Seneca Meadows, NY's Largest Landfill, Sits in a Disadvantaged Area
with High Lung Cancer Rates: Is That a Problem?"**

Seneca Lake Guardian was alarmed to learn through Peter Mantius' article that there is an unusually high number of lung cancer cases around northern Seneca County. Having access to this type of information is important so that communities and their decision-makers can make informed decisions that protect people from harm from environmental exposures that can be linked to cancer.

Seneca Lake Guardian has been advocating for the closure of the Seneca Meadows Landfill in 2025 because of concerns that the landfill is affecting the health and well-being of those who live, work, learn, play, and pray in the communities surrounding the landfill. We know that the odor from the landfill has become a persistent nuisance in the area and we know the odors we can smell signify that we are also breathing other unseen, odorless but harmful landfill gases.

Seneca Lake Guardian stands with local residents and businesses to demand that Seneca Meadow close in 2025 when its permit expires. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation must protect our constitutional right to clean air, water and a healthy environment and deny Seneca Meadows' expansion application. The Seneca Falls Master Plan Comprehensive Update, which is in development now, should also reflect the community's desire to see the landfill closed and plan for a future without the landfill.

The region has done its part providing a place for New York City and other states to dispose of their garbage. New York City's adoption of the Zero Waste Act will significantly reduce its trash. New York's Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan is a roadmap to minimize waste and promote a zero waste, circular economy. If adopted, the plan is good for New York, communities, the environment, and the economy. But the Department must recognize that the continued operation of the State's largest landfill, Seneca Meadows, is unequivocally at odds with the plan's goals and that those goals are merely paper tigers if the DEC allows the expansion and continued operation of this landfill. This new to us data merely confirms our concerns and supports our call to close the landfill by 2025.

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