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Suitability of the Menmax Corporation's Proposed Site for a
Metropolitan Landfill Disposal Area in the
Town of Parma, Monroe County*

*By: John E. Hubbard, Robert W. Adams, Robert L. Merle, & Richard L. Reeves
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THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
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Suitability of the Menmax Corporation's Proposed Site
For a Metropolitan Landfill Disposal Area in the Town of Parma, Monroe County
by
John E. Hubbard (Task Force Chairman), Robert W. Adams,
Robert L. Merle, and Richard L. Reeves

NOTE: R.C.S.I. received a request for independent appraisal of the suitability of the site on December 3, 1970 through Mr. William C. Larsen, Engineer for the Town of Parma who acted on behalf of Mr. John Jennejahn, Supervisor. A professional task force was assembled, with Dr. Hubbard as chairman, and it began work immediately. Because of inclement weather, the field work was limited, but the geology and soils of the area were familiar to members of the group. Engineering and environmental evaluations were made chiefly from the town engineer's report (1), from personal communications with Mr. Larsen and from oral testimony presented at a public hearing.

Further reference materials for the problem of landfill sites for metropolitan waste disposal may be found in R.C.S.I. Bulletin #109 (M) (immediately preceding) by Richard L. Reeves.

Although the Town Board of Parma has denied application for a permit for development of this area for landfill disposal, R.C.S.I. publishes this report as a contribution to education in public decision making.

Location:

The proposed site is located in the Spencerport Quadrangle, USGS Map (1-24,000 series). It is on the north side of Ridge Road, Route U.S. 104, opposite the intersection of the Hinkleyville Road. It consists of approximately 400 acres, bounded on the south by the Ridge Road, and on the west by the Clarkson-Parma Townline Road; extending northerly for approximately 4700 feet, and easterly to a hedge row approximately 800 feet east of the Hinkleyville Road intersection. Subsequently, the site was modified to exclude the area west of Salmon Creek and to extend further eastward.

Summary:

This committee, acting as volunteers in the investigation, considers this site no worse for disposal of solid waste than other sites in the metropolitan region previously considered. The site, located on the Lake Ontario plain north of Ridge Road, does appear to have certain advantages in terms of its location:

- (1) The area is not highly developed at present, and
- (2) The land is flat and is underlain with apparently homogeneous clay material available for sealing of water below and above the operation.

However, the committee was not convinced that pollution of the water supply could be prevented at the site under consideration.

Detail of Findings:

R.C.S.I. recommends that disposal areas should be isolated systems with respect to contamination of adjacent areas. It appeared at the Parma Town Public Meeting that the Menmax Corporation did not appreciate sufficiently the extent of the possibility for infiltration of water from above, especially after extreme precipitation, and contamination of ground water both vertically and horizontally in the site area between Salmon and Buttonwood Creeks. Mr. Larsen did consider the possibility seriously and anticipated draining the site and treating the leachate. Mr. Larsen also agreed that an intense investigation, drilling on 100 foot centers, would be preliminary to site development.

Recommendations and Suggestions:

1. We recommend independent monitoring of environmental parameters in the area before, during and after initiation of such projects. Although our judgment is tentative, capability to treat leachate from the waste may be demonstrated by additional evidence.
2. Solid waste disposal planning and operation should be approached on a regional "problem-shed" basis, utilizing public agencies with technical capability in the field of ground structure and hydrology, such as the U.S. Geological Survey for both planning and monitoring.
3. This regional approach would demand an administrative program for recycling of most solid waste presently being disposed of by incineration and landfills.

Guidelines for landfill sites are available in reports issued by the Illinois State Geological Survey and other agencies. We feel that the information in these reports is helpful. However, specific data concerning several aspects of ground water movement and water quality are needed to justify and/or modify the guidelines proposed by the various agencies.

The task force wishes to undertake a more complete study of this problem, and to thank particularly Mr. Larsen for his cooperative attitude in encouraging our work with complete freedom to draw our own conclusions and publish them.

References:

- (1) Larsen, W. C. Town Engineer's Report Regarding the Proposal of American Menmax Corporation for a Compacted Solids Waste Operations and Disposal Site to be Located in the Town of Parma, Nov. 30, 1970.