

# **Questions you should ask!!!**

1. Approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of Cement Kiln Dust (CKD) were buried under Bay Harbor. According to Dr. Timm, retired chemist from DOW Chemical, it could take up to 15,000 years for all the mercury to leach out of this CKD.

**\*Does CMS really plan to collect and dispose of hazardous leachate from water flowing through the CKD for an eternity?**

**\*Does the EPA have a time limit on corporate responsibility?**

2. The EPA, in 2005, ordered CMS to “remove, contain or isolate” the CKD. This is standard procedure for cement plants around the country. CMS claims it is impractical and too expensive to remove the CKD. Instead they are building trenches and pipes to collect the ground and surface water after it flows through the CKD and becomes contaminated.

**\*Have they calculated the cost of collecting and transporting leachate to off-site disposal for the next few thousand years?**

**\*They talk about using an injection well in Alba just until a water-processing facility can be built to treat the leachate on-site and release it back into Lake Michigan. Again, is it practical and cost effective to run such a facility to treat groundwater contaminated by CKD for the next several thousand years?**

**\*There are companies who specialize in recycling CKD into useful products by turning it into a solid which is impermeable to water. Has CMS considered this?**

3. The golf course was built over the top of massive amounts of CKD.

**\*Wouldn't it be better ethically, and more cost effective in the long run , to dig up the golf course and remove the CKD there - as opposed to collecting and transporting the leachate for disposal for all eternity?**

**\*Watering the golf course - millions of gallons in a season - just adds to the leachate problem. Is this not a clear violation of the Covenant Not To Sue?**

4. According to the DEQ's own data, the current leachate collection efficiency rate at seep 2 (there are 4 identified seeps), is only 3 - 5%. If all the leachate currently entering Little Traverse Bay, from just this one seep, were collected and transported off-site for disposal, it would require 250 - 500 truck loads PER DAY!

**\*How is this feasible, prudent or cost-effective?**

5. No studies have been done to determine exactly how much ground and surface water runs through the CKD piles and then into Lake Michigan, however the DEQ estimated the amount at about a million gallons a day. This water should be flowing into Lake Michigan. Instead, it is absorbing toxic CKD, and needs to be collected and transported out of the Little Traverse Bay watershed for disposal.

**\*Why is the off-site disposal of millions of gallons of contaminated ground and surface water not considered a major water diversion and a violation of the Great Lakes Water Compact?**

6. According to EPA documents, during periods of heavy water use by the City of Petoskey municipal water wells, there is an actual reversal of groundwater flow around seep 2.

**\*Is it possible that the groundwater is flowing through the CKD piles and into the municipal wells at certain times of the year?**

**\*How safe is the drinking water in Petoskey? Have adequate tests been run during high water use times?**

7. CKD at Bay Harbor contains large amounts of mercury, lead, arsenic and other heavy metals. And if it is like most CKD tested around the country, it also contains dioxins and furans.

**\*Why hasn't the CKD at Bay Harbor been tested for these organic compounds?**

**\*Why has testing for total organic compounds been banned from the current remediation plan?**

8. Known carcinogenic chemicals such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and ethylbenzene have been found in leachate. These are chemicals commonly found in petroleum products, not CKD.

**\*Is it possible other materials/chemicals were buried in the quarry pits along with the CKD?**

**\*Total organic compounds have also been found but not differentiated. Could PCB's and PBB's be among them?**

**\*Why hasn't proper testing been done?**

9. According to geologist Dr. McClurg, the rock layers in Michigan are bowl shaped - like stacked cereal bowls. The Dundee layer into which CMS wants to inject toxic leachate - while over 2,000 feet deep in Alba, is actually the surface rock layer in Emmet County. CMS is proposing to pump at high pressure, a million gallons of leachate a week for at least 10 years - the life of the permit - into the Dundee layer.

**\*What is to stop the leachate from expanding horizontally and eventually making its way back into Lake Michigan?**

10. According to Chris Grobbel's environmental assessment study, the proposed leachate truck route from Bay harbor to Alba would cross over 20 coldwater and designated trout streams and tributaries, and pass over 9 miles of sensitive wetlands.

**\*At the current proposed rate of 15 - 20 truck loads of toxic leachate a day, what are the chances of an accident or spill?**

**\*Has a study been done to assess this problem, and if not, why not?**

11. The proposed Alba injection well lies within the groundwater aquifer/headwaters of the Jordan River, Manistee River, AuSable River and Lake Charlevoix to name a few. Injection wells have an 8% failure rate. Surface spills from storage tanks, truck accidents etc. can occur.

**\*Is it worth putting these rivers and pristine areas at risk when this type of disposal doesn't even begin to solve the problem at Bay Harbor?**

**For more information contact Friends Of The Jordan at [www.friendsofthejordan.org](http://www.friendsofthejordan.org)**