

A COMMUNITY FORUM PUBLIC INVITED

“AN APPEAL TO EPA AND MDEQ TO RECONSIDER PERMITTING A WASTE DISPOSAL WELL NEAR ALBA”

Saturday March 8th, 2008 – 2:00 PM
Alba High School, Alba, MI

SPONSORED BY: Friends of the Jordan and Star Township

**SUPPORTED BY: Numerous groups, organizations, county and local governments and countless citizens throughout Northern Michigan
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On February 7th, 2008, EPA and MDEQ issued permits to allow cement kiln dust (CKD) leachate from Bay Harbor Resort to be disposed in a deep well near Alba. The people of this region don't want it. EPA's and DEQ's permits are based on very narrow rules only governing the well's operation. They reject or fail to consider many concerns raised by the citizens of Northern Michigan. This forum will provide the opportunity for people to have their voices heard and the broader issues examined in a public arena. If this issue is important to you please make an effort to attend. You may not get another chance to make your voice heard.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 An appeal to EPA can be based on, “An exercise of discretion or an important policy consideration which the Environmental Appeals Board should, in its discretion, review.” Widespread opposition and unmet citizen concerns should be important policy considerations.
- 2 EPA's 2005 Order for the cleanup at Bay Harbor requires CMS to “Remove, Isolate or Contain” the CKD. Not transport it to Alba and possibly poison our water.
- 2 Nearly 30% of the public comments submitted to EPA by concerned citizens were either rejected or ignored because they fell outside the narrow Underground Injection Control (UIC) “Rules”. (These rules only define the specifications for the well.)
- 3 According to MDEQ, over 1,000,000 gallons of untreated CKD contaminated groundwater flow into Little Traverse Bay (LTB) every day. The amount of leachate captured by the collection system at Bay Harbor amounts to only 3-8% of the total leachate. Why is over 90% of the contaminated groundwater still allowed to flow into Lake Michigan?
- 4 EPA's “UIC Rules” do not consider many issues like the wear and tear of county roads, traffic safety, emergency response, property rights or who is responsible if problems occur.
- 5 No one knows for sure the ultimate fate or effects of the massive volumes of proposed disposed leachate. What we do know is that we don't know enough to jeopardize a pristine aquifer for 10 – 20 years when prudent and feasible alternatives exist.
- 6 Other CKD contaminated sites have been cleaned elsewhere without deep well disposal.
- 7 Grand Traverse County's Septage Treatment Plant has the need and proven ability to properly dispose of this leachate.
- 8 Should an independent agency without political ties or a “covenant not to sue” conduct an inquiry into the cleanup at Bay Harbor?
- 9 These issues and many others were not fully considered in the permits issued by EPA and MDEQ on 2/07/08.