

Sutton, Gregory (DEC)

From: Forcucci, Matthew J (HEALTH)
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:17 AM
To: Sutton, Gregory (DEC)
Cc: Clint Babcock; Joseph Branch
Subject: Niagara Sanitation article

FYI, from today's Buffalo News

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/wheatfield/cleanup-delayed-at-wheatfield-landfill-containing-love-canal-waste-20150113>

Cleanup delayed at Wheatfield landfill containing Love Canal waste

By [Thomas Prohaska](#) | News Niagara Reporter | [@ThomasProhaska](#) | [Google+](#)

on January 13, 2015 - 6:56 PM

WHEATFIELD – Work on removing Love Canal waste from a town-owned landfill in Wheatfield has been halted temporarily because of the weather, and when it resumes, the material will no longer be exported to Canada.

A spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation said Tuesday that the contractor on the cleanup stopped sending the waste in trucks to an incinerator near Sarnia, Ont., after objections from residents and officials there.

Wheatfield Supervisor Robert B. Cliffe said, “I believe they decided to change the destination to Texas to avoid the political concerns in Sarnia.”

However, the DEC would not confirm that. “We expect to receive information from the company in the near future as to its specific plans for transportation and disposal of the waste material,” the DEC said in an email to The Buffalo News.

At a public meeting in Wheatfield in September, a DEC official said the contractor had considered Texas as a disposal site but chose Sarnia instead.

The cleanup of what's officially known as the Niagara Sanitation Co. landfill, after the company that originally dug it, is being carried out by Glenn Springs Holdings, a subsidiary of Occidental Chemical Corp.

Occidental is the corporate successor of Hooker Chemical Co., the company that dumped thousands of tons of toxic waste in the disused former Love Canal in eastern Niagara Falls. When that landfill started to leak in the late 1970s, it triggered one of the nation's most notorious environmental disasters and led to the creation of the

federal Superfund. The government bought the homes of scores of families in the area and supervised the renovation of the landfill, which remains largely a fenced-off mound today.

But a decade before the disaster, in June and July 1968, crews from the state Department of Transportation hauled about 1,600 cubic yards of waste from the south end of Love Canal to the Wheatfield site after disturbing the chemicals while constructing the LaSalle Expressway.

They reburied the waste in the Niagara Sanitation landfill, a 20-acre pit located east of Nash Road and south of Niagara Falls Boulevard. It is separated from the North Tonawanda city line only by a narrow National Grid right of way. Niagara Sanitation operated the landfill from 1964 to 1968.

In November 2013, a state test pinpointed the location of the Love Canal waste in the Wheatfield landfill, and a cleanup plan was put together. The waste is in a 27-foot-deep trench that measures 100 by 30 feet.

Glenn Springs started work in October, with hopes of being done before Christmas. That didn't work out, as site preparation, including brush clearing and the building of a temporary road for heavy equipment, took longer than expected.

The DEC said Glenn Springs plans to erect a temporary shelter over the site to make the cold-weather work easier on the crews, with the hope of resuming the cleanup by late January.

Once the Love Canal waste is gone, the DEC plans a full remediation of the site, where industrial waste was dumped by companies including Bell Aerospace, Continental Can, Frontier Chemical Co., Carborundum Co., Graphite Specialties, Greif Brothers and the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The companies or their successors will be asked to help pay for the work.

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