

Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin
P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

March 27, 2012

Oneida Tribal Business Committee
Edward Delgado, Chairman, Greg Matson, Vice Chairman
Oneida Tribe
Norbert Hill Center
N7210 Seminary Road
Oneida, WI 54155

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the over 1100 people who have signed a petition to oppose the Oneida Seven Generations Corporation (OSGC) gasification incinerator. Most of these signers have indicated they will boycott Oneida Tribal businesses if this plant is built. Many of the signers live much closer than you to the proposed facility. They live in the Mather Heights district, which is considered to be part of the fallout zone for many of the pollutants that the plant will produce. They, along with many others, were shocked to learn that contrary to what OSGC told them, there will be smokestacks and there will be emissions. Even though they were told the facility would not burn tires, tires are included in the plan as a fuel source. The signers have expressed to us their anger about being given incomplete, inaccurate, and even false information, both in OSGC presentations and in media releases.

The basic facts are now known. There will be over 18 toxic air emissions from the facility, for some of which the hazards have not been fully researched. Young families have expressed their fears for raising their children in a neighborhood so close to a facility, which was falsely promoted. They worry that growing up in the Mather Heights neighborhood will give their children the cumulative effect from years of exposure to its emissions. They worry that this facility will further stress their children who suffer from asthma and will cause others to suffer from this illness. They worry that there are additional facts that OSGC has kept from them.

In the past, The Oneida Tribe and CWAC were partners in protecting the air, the water, and the land. Together we fought for the clean-up of the Fox River. Together we urged the DNR to enforce regulations against polluters. CWAC has remained true to the cause of protecting Mother Earth. We fought against the Grantech sludge incinerator. We fought against the Crandon Mine. We sought enforcement of wastewater discharge regulations against Utica Energy after 2,290 violations in a six-month period. Most recently, we teamed up with the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians to educate the public about the negative impacts the proposed mining bill could have on the Bad River watershed.

We wonder what path your tribe has chosen to travel. We wonder how promoting a project that is not only unproven, but which has proven not to work successfully elsewhere, can be good for this generation, or for the next seven. We wonder what has become of our partner.

Sometimes it is necessary to look a gift horse in the mouth. When one finds the beast is diseased, it is better to not accept the gift. What kind of gift has the incinerator industry brought to you? Are they offering a well-groomed beast full of hidden disease? Has the promise of government money blinded you from looking into the mouth of this gift horse and seeing its disease? Look carefully. See now, and see into the future.

What path will you choose for the Oneida Tribe?

Please look closely at the attached documents that were turned in to the City of Green Bay, which we feel document misrepresentations made by Oneida Seven Generations while promoting the gasification incinerator. We here at Clean Water Action Council were also fooled and lulled into a lack of action until we researched the claims being made.

Included in these documents is Exhibit A, a copy of petitions to oppose the facility and another to oppose the facility and boycott Oneida Tribal businesses. Many of the signatures represent people who were desperate to do something to protect the health of their families from the kind of project that has caused harm elsewhere. The American Lung Association has determined that waste-to energy facilities are a type of incinerator and that they can create more air pollution and greenhouse gases than coal burning plants. The petition signers want you to look more critically at the history of gasification incineration. They feel if you do so, you would have to reconsider your commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

Dean Hoegger
Clean Water Action Council President

Attachments: Letter to Green Bay City Council, Exhibits A-M