

THE PRESS Hobart Section

Petitions Submitted In Opposition To Recycling Plant

By Staff Reporter
Shannon Nichola Stoner
Oneida Seven

Generations Corp (OSGC) has encountered tribal opposition to the plans to build a plastics recycling plant on reservation lands. On Wednesday, February 13 the Oneida Land Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit for a former Tower Foods grocery store at N7329 Water Circle Place to be rezoned. Oneida Seven Generations is proposing a trash to energy plant that would melt non-recyclable plastics and convert it to energy. Opponent Leah Dodge submitted a petition with 81 signatures on February 11 to Patty Hoefft in the Tribal Secretary's office to stop construction of the plant amid environmental, economic, and health concerns.

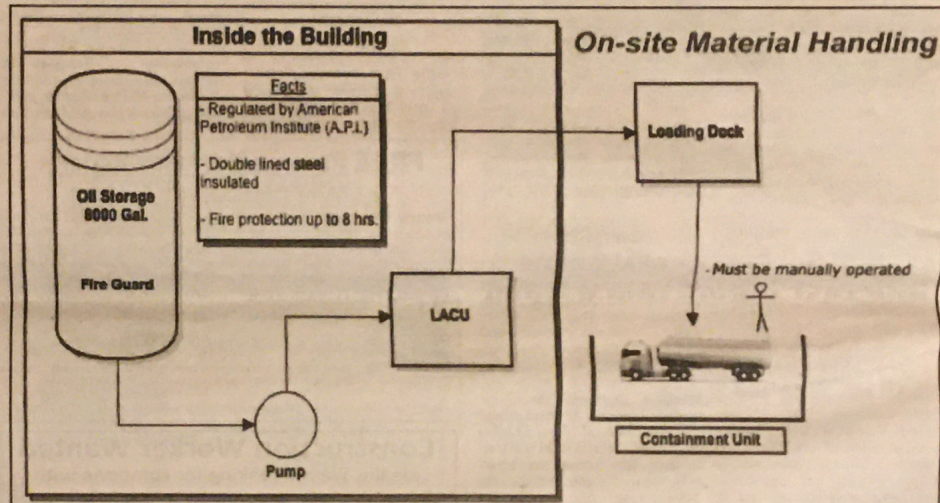
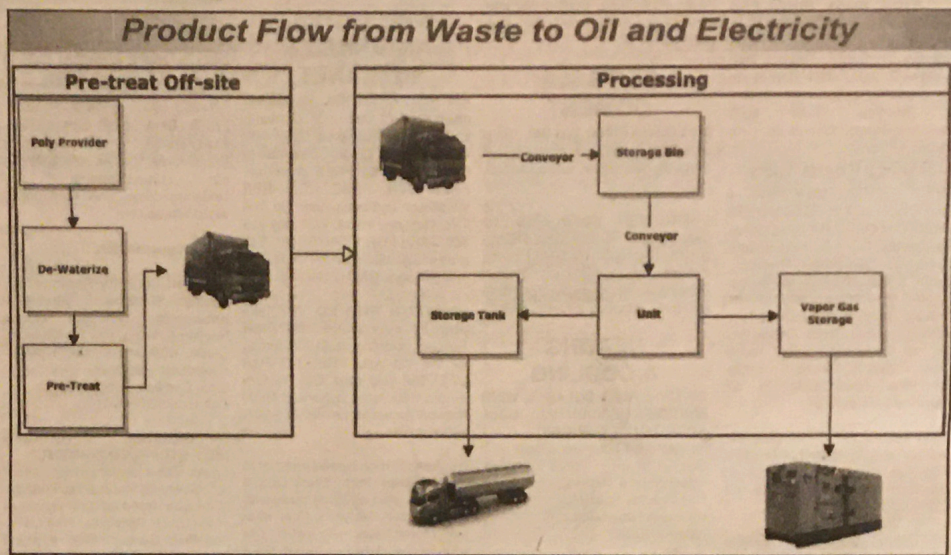
According to the February 7th edition of Kalihwisaks, the new plant would recycle plastics into fibers and then be drained of any water content, heated, sent down a hollow tube, then sliced. The result is a rough-textured nugget of plastic material. The plastic will then be brought to the Tower Foods site by truck and placed in a storage bin. Within Tower Foods there will be two gasification units to heat the plastic lumps via internal combustion engine and convert it into an oil base. The engine will run on the vapor gases which are emitted during the heating process. The resulting oil will be stored in a designated oil storage tank which is a double-lined steel insulated tank which is required to meet American Petroleum Institute standards. The plant would employ up to 20 people and produce

\$22.8 million in revenue. Plans are still in the conceptual stage, but Dodge is determined to allow tribal members to voice their opinion regarding the project.

The petition was drafted by Dodge with guidance from Yvonne Metvier, an Oneida elder experienced in bringing matters before the General Tribal Council (GTC). The petition seeks to stop the OSGC from building any gasification, waste-to-energy, or plastics recycling plant at the Water Circle Place location or at any other location within Tribal reservation boundaries.

Dodge wanted to offer a venue for tribal members to object to the Oneida Land Commission turning a business park in a wetlands into an industrial zone. She expressed concern regarding the experimental plastics incinerator producing dioxins, toxic oil, gas emissions, and ash less than a mile from schools, offices, and at the nearby Tribe's organic farm.

The plant, Dodge claimed, could have a negative impact on the tribe's economy with its close proximity. "I'm concerned people won't buy products from Tsyunhehkw^A (joon-hay-kwa), new Oneida Market if they know dioxins are emitted less than a mile west of the farm," Dodge said. "The experimental incinerator could cost jobs rather than create jobs if there's a boycott." Dodge is especially concerned about the OSGC's plans to construct an 8,000 gallon storage tank for toxic oil to be sited on a wetlands area. Visit <http://ubuntuone.com/7iznyAgjzoTVWryUjreLDo> to view a PowerPoint presentation by the OSGC regarding the plant's proposed process,



schematics, and financial information. Dodge is not only concerned about the environmental implication of wetlands, but increased traffic from trucks bringing trash into the Oneida community. With these paramount concerns surrounding the project, Dodge felt the OSGC has lost credibility, especially given Brown County Judge Mark Hammer's dictum that the corporation misled the public and

civic leaders regarding the project's scope. Dodge hopes to present a resolution at the GTC meeting for a vote to denounce construction of the plant in May. She is currently coordinating an educational campaign with Metvier to convey the basis of their environmental, health, and economic concerns regarding the project. Meetings are also scheduled with Green Bay groups that opposed the plant last

year. Dodge questions where the technology has proved safe and where one could be toured to see how the technology is protecting the health of neighbors and the environment as well as where Tribal Chairperson Ed Delgado could tour. Delgado recently asked OSGC where he could tour an existing version, but they couldn't name one functioning commercial facility.

Dodge is grateful for the participation of those who signed the petition and mentioned some tribal members were concerned about jeopardizing their jobs. Some members who live on Tribal trust land managed by the Oneida Land Commission were also anxious about signing it since the commission is lead by Amelia Cornelius, who is the mother of OSGC CEO Kevin Cornelius.