

PRESS RELEASE for immediate release

From: Friends of Clam Lake
P. O. Box 173
Alden, MI 49612

Contacts: Jim Marling, Director (850)384-0131
Paul Sak, President (586)268-4140

The Board of Directors and the membership of Friends of Clam Lake approved a "Statement of Position" (copy attached) opposing the Alba/Star Township deep injection well. As noted in the Statement there is no guarantee that such an approach is fail safe. In fact, one estimate suggests a one-in-ten potential for failure. A failure will damage the underground waters of Antrim County and could cause problems throughout northwest Michigan.

The Bay Harbor Resort development has suffered from the beginning by taking the "cost effective" (cheapest) approach. Instead of removing the existing kiln dust from the site, developers covered the dust over and even used it in shaping the project contours.

Cost effective: yes.

Meeting then existing state standards: yes.

Ignoring known problems: absolutely and unfortunately yes.

Almost 20 years ago the Petoskey News Review published information about water quality problems based on samples taken from the shoreline in front of the cement complex that is now Bay Harbor Resort. The samples showed the presence of heavy metals, most notably arsenic in concentrations arousing concern (see Edward E Timm, PhD, P.E.). When water samples taken from water adjacent to a site loaded with kiln dust disclose serious problems, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to suggest the source of the problem. Common sense says look to the kiln dust.

Unfortunately, developers, local politicians and even the public were so enamored of profit, increased tax base and an attractive development that common sense was ignored. Now, they want to shift the burden for the mess they created in Emmet County to Antrim County. Well, in the words of Lee Corso, "Not so fast, my friend". There are alternatives and regardless of "cost effectiveness", they should be followed before any type of waste is pumped into the Alba injection well.

One is to put a protective cover over areas of the golf course that contain kiln dust. Such a cover would eliminate surface water leaching into the dust. This is, most likely, a major source of the leachate that must currently be treated.

Another is to expand/improve the existing treatment facilities in Emmet County. This is already under consideration by CMS but their approach does not go far enough. They propose to treat the leachate to achieve a level of 30 parts per trillion of mercury. The currently acceptable level for discharge into Little Traverse Bay is 1.3 parts per trillion. That is the standard that CMS should meet.

From the beginning, CMS and their development partners have focused on doing things based on that cost effective standard. That is what has led to the current mess. It is now time to put cost effectiveness aside and do what needs to be done. Anything less is not acceptable.