

RRG to provide access to NYS DEC's May 10 hearing on CWM

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Submitted by Residents
for Responsible Government

RRG has posted access for the public to watch or listen to the presentation of testimony at a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hearing beginning Wednesday, May 10, regarding Chemical Waste Management's application to site a new, 6-million-ton hazardous waste and PCB landfill operation in the towns of Lewiston and Porter.

This hearing is specific to the topic of whether a new CWM toxic waste landfill operation would adversely affect the marketability of area agricultural products.

This is one of several hearings in the past year regarding CWM applications, which date back to 2003.

Significant issues include:

- ✓ Experts for the U.S. EPA and Niagara County disagree with CWM's groundwater contamination model. Niagara County is represented jointly with the Town of Lewiston, the Village of Lewiston and the Village of Youngstown. RRG, the Niagara County Farm Bureau, the Lew-Port Central School District, Buffalo-Niagara River Waterkeeper and the Tuscarora Nation are also represented in CWM proceedings along with a local resident.

- ✓ Experts at Argonne National laboratory for the Army Corps of Engineers and also Niagara County disagree with CWM's selection of data to model contaminants released into the air. The Army Corps study comparing area wind data sources was commissioned for federal property adjacent to CWM.

- ✓ CWM's proposal to discharge

PCBs into the Niagara River is disputed as illegal.

There are also major disputes with CWM regarding radiological contamination on its property, as well as truck traffic and noise models, which will be the subject of future hearings.

Both EPA and New York state have determined there is no need to site a new toxic waste landfill, because there are 17 other such operations in the U.S. with capacity to handle the nation's needs for the foreseeable future.

The CWM site is located 10 miles north of Love Canal and one mile from all public schools for two towns. CWM disposal operations have been closed for nearly eight years.

Visit RRG on the web at RRG-NY.com for instructions to access the hearing, or for more information.

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Niagara Pride announces 'Season of Pride' events calendar

Niagara Pride has announced its 2023 "Season of Pride," what organizers called "a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community throughout Niagara County and all of WNY."

Events include:

- May 20: Kicking off the list of festivities lined up by Niagara Pride is the WNY Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk.

Organizers said, "We are encouraging participants to run, walk, strut or sashay across the finish line! This fun run/walk event is open to all! This year, we are thrilled to have The Buffalo Sabres Foundation, The Buffalo Bills, and The John Fiore Foundation as sponsors of the event. Additionally, Wegmans will be donating foods for participants. As a special treat, this year's WNY Pride 5k will have local drag legend, Blair Michaels, performing and music provided by WNY's only LGGTQ+ radio station, Energy Radio."

The event will take place at Niagara County Community College, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn. Preregistration for the event is strongly encouraged. Visit www.WNYPride5k.org 10 days prior to the run/walk in order to receive a bib and event merch to wear during the Pride 5K. Registration will take place the day of the event.

Niagara Pride is offering a special discount for the WNY Pride 5k: Students with ID, or veterans and active military, or seniors ages 55-plus can participate for \$10.

Additionally, volunteers are welcome. Organizers said, "We need a number of volunteers to help out with set up, check in, water distribution, clean up."

To register as a volunteer, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/us-8qZdmx2>.

- June 1: Pride flag-raising ceremonies will be held across Niagara County, at Artpark in Lewiston (9:30 a.m.), Niagara Falls State Park (10:30 a.m. near the Top of the Falls Restaurant at Terrapin Point on Goat Island), Niagara Falls City Hall (11:30 a.m.), NCCC (1 p.m. inside the Learning Commons) and City of Lockport (3:30 p.m. near City Hall and the Erie



Canal).

- June 1-30 - "WNY Shopping With Pride" highlights local LGBTQ+ and ally owned businesses. Check them out on www.wnyshoppingwithpride.org.

- June 4 - Niagara Pride at the Buffalo Pride Parade. Organizers said, "Walk/ride with Niagara Pride as we represent Niagara County in the 2023 Buffalo Pride Parade. Meet us at 8 a.m. at Buffalo State." The parade kicks off at noon.

- June 10 - Newfane Pride. Organizers said, "Join us and our hosts, Calhoon's Pub, as we celebrate pride in Newfane for the second year in row!" Visit <https://facebook.com/events/s/newfane-pride/1137875600223928/?mibextid=tejx2t>.

- June 17 - Oliver Street Pride. Organizers said, "Pride in North Tonawanda is back! Join Oliver Street Merchant Association and Niagara Pride at this amazing festival in its third year!" Visit <https://facebook.com/events/s/3rd-annual-oliver-street-pride/3108432966117624/>.

- June 24 - Rainbow City Pride (The Official Pride of Niagara Falls, NY). Pride comes back to Niagara Falls, as Rainbow City Pride will be on Old Falls Street in front of the Convention Center from noon to 5 p.m.

Organizers said, "Join Old Falls Street and Niagara Pride as we bring drag performers from Di-

vasWho!; The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus; various local vendors; meet superheroes from The Justice League of WNY; representatives from other WNY Pride organizations; unicorn-drawn carriage rides; and other pride festivities to the Rainbow City! The best part: It's all free of charge! For more information, go to: <https://facebook.com/events/s/rainbow-city-pride-the-official/553408743597691/?mibextid=tejx2t>.

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