



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

Ortt Applauds State Action at Wheatfield Landfill

Kevin Crumb

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Andrew M. Cuomo today directed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Health to expand ongoing investigations at the Niagara Sanitation Landfill in order to ensure no contamination of nearby residential properties. DEC is working with the town of Wheatfield to immediately expand its landfill sampling investigation to include both soil and groundwater testing in surrounding residential areas to ensure contamination has been contained to the landfill. Additionally, the Department of Health, the Niagara County Water District, and the Wheatfield Municipal Water System continue to monitor the public water supply, which has not been impacted by the contamination.

Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I – North Tonawanda) today applauded the state's announcement that it will expand testing for contamination at the Wheatfield Landfill. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) stated it would further test municipal water while expanding tests to nearby residential properties to ensure the safety of the community surrounding the former Niagara Sanitation Landfill.

"I'm encouraged that the state is addressing the concerns regarding this site – concerns expressed by residents and public officials over the course of decades," said Ortt. "As far as I'm concerned, late action is better than no action. The toxic legacy of Love Canal has plagued greater Niagara County for 40 years. Niagara County residents have repeatedly felt betrayed at all the stakeholders – from corporations to government – which is why I believe this needs to be at the forefront of our state's environmental and public health concerns."

Upon taking office in 2015, Ortt heard from residents and relayed their concerns to state officials. Upon the state's reclassification of the property as a Superfund site, Ortt secured \$75,000 in State of New York's Dormitory Authority (DASNY) funds. The funds were directed to the Town of Wheatfield in order to prevent trespassing. In discussions with DEC and DOH, he also called for immediate state attention directed

to the municipal water supply as well as surrounding residential community.