

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR MICHAEL N. GIANARIS
12TH DISTRICT

March 29, 2011

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CODES COMMITTEE
COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
LABOR

Joseph Martens
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Dear Commissioner Martens,

I write regarding a serious situation affecting the health and safety of the people in western Queens and the well being of our air and water resources.

Specifically, I write in opposition to the opening of a plant owned and operated by Green Asphalt Co, LLC at 37-98 Railroad Avenue in Long Island City.

This plant will not only worsen already unacceptable traffic on a de-mapped New York City street, but by placing this plant and its two large diesel engines directly next to the Newtown Creek, it will exacerbate pollution and traffic congestion in an area that is already in dire need of relief from health and environmental complications caused by projects like these.

Not only is this plant ill-conceived based on its merits and location, but the process through which it came to fruition was utterly flawed as neither the local elected officials, nor members of Community Board 2 were given sufficient notification about the details of this plant. In fact, it has come to my attention that public notification and the opportunity for public comment were never submitted for this specific proposal and license application, as is required by regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

This is completely unacceptable and therefore I call upon you to halt the opening of this plant until a proper review of this particular project with comprehensive community involvement is complete.

Due to the imminent opening of this potentially hazardous plant, a timely response would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Gianaris".

Michael Gianaris
State Senator

CC: Elizabeth Clarke, NYSDEC Region 2 Headquarters