

Testimony: Mr. Barry Schweitzer
Council Member, Bangor Borough
Member, Bangor Borough Authority

On Tuesday, August 24, 2010 I was alerted to 20 tri-axel trucks parked on the Ridge Road waiting for the gate to the Bangor Borough incinerator property to be opened. They were the first round of about 100 truckloads to be dumped there by Art Fletcher, who was later convicted and sent to jail for dumping contaminated soil.

About the same time, Scott Koehler (another DIRT entrepreneur) dumped about 100 truckloads on the east side of Route 191 next to 2585 Valley View Drive, about one mile before the top of the mountain. This was later deemed to be contaminated and hauled away, to the brownfields of Palmerton, PA.

In the next phase, slightly contaminated (clean fill) according to PADEP could be brought in and dumped just about anywhere. Due to the difference in regulations between NYDEP, NJDEP, and PADEP. In New York and New Jersey this dirt would have to go to a lined landfill at a cost (according to NJDEP) of about of about \$100 per ton or \$2300 per truckload. To truck it to Pennsylvania, it cost about \$500 to take a truckload of dirt 80 miles to Pennsylvania and return empty, my guess is that there is a tipping fee of about \$500. So, if you follow the money this enterprise exists because of an estimated profit of \$1300 per truckload.

There is an average daily run of 180 to 200 trucks per day coming into East Bangor. When the Police set up a weight check they have found they get 3 or 4 trucks, all overloaded and then the trucks stop coming (cell phones, CB radio). The same is true in Whitehall Township.

The trucks have a vested interest in carrying all they can, as they get paid by the ton. The same is true with dirtier dirt – if they can slip it in undetected, there is more money to be made. There is profit in cheating. Without oversight, the fox is guarding the henhouse.

If you bring enough low level contaminated soil into the area and dump it into the water-filled quarries (where the Aquifer is visible), the local environment will be changed forever (think Flint Michigan). According to the U.S. Energy Administration, when a gallon of diesel is burned, it produces 22.38 lbs of CO₂. Now a tri-axel gets about 5 miles per gallon. Every truckload produces 716 lbs of CO₂ and when you multiply this by 200 trucks per day it equals 72 tons per day.

We didn't inherit this land from our forefathers to do with it what we want, we are borrowing it from our grandchildren.

Thank you,

Barry Schweitzer