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DEC Ignores Request for Agri-Cycle Hearing

To the Editor of The Eagle,

On June 4, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation intends to rubber-stamp the renewal of Agri-Cycle's permit to operate a composting facility on Belle Road in the Town of Cambridge. In so doing, they will ignore a petition requesting that a public hearing be held prior to any DEC decision on the permit renewal. The petition was signed by 68 concerned citizens and neighbors of the facility.

The signers are concerned that the operators of the facility are violating the basic terms of its current permit, by allowing trucks to deliver materials outside DEC approved operating hours (9 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday, and 9 AM to noon on Saturday), often in the early hours of the morning when there is no staff on site, by leaving the gate unlocked, and by failing to supervise deliveries.

As a result of these violations, there is no effective control of the content or quantity of materials delivered. Agri-Cycle could be receiving garbage, plastic, or radioactive waste for all they or anyone else knows. The violations also raise serious questions regarding the credibility of CTI Agri-Cycle, and its competence to run a facility of this nature.

The signers feel that the DEC should hold a public hearing to ensure that it has all the facts on any violations and public concerns before deciding on the renewal of the Agri-Cycle permit.

Over the past year, the Cambridge Town Board has heard numerous complaints regarding the Agri-Cycle facility, but has taken no action. Board members have even said there is no problem. Now is the time for the people of the town to act on this issue, and get answers to our concerns about the effects of this facility on our health, our children's welfare, our quality of life, the value of our property and the environment.

If the DEC will not provide an opportunity for public comment, then we must. This is too serious an issue to let slide. Cambridge Board Watch will post a copy of the Agri-Cycle permit on its website (www.cambridgeboardwatch.com) as soon as the DEC provides it. We will collect written complaints regarding any violations and concerns to be forwarded to the DEC. Please contact me at 692-9391 if you have information relevant to this issue.

Sincerely,

William "Beaver" Watkins