



Summary: Overall Health Risks – Past/Current Contamination

Specialty Records/ WEA Mfg/ Cinram/ Technicolor Building (Past)

1400 E Lackawanna Ave Olyphant, PA 18447

Marjol Battery Building (Past)

600 Delaware Street, Throop, PA 18512

Keystone Sanitary Landfill (Current)

249 Dunham Dr, Dunmore, PA 18512

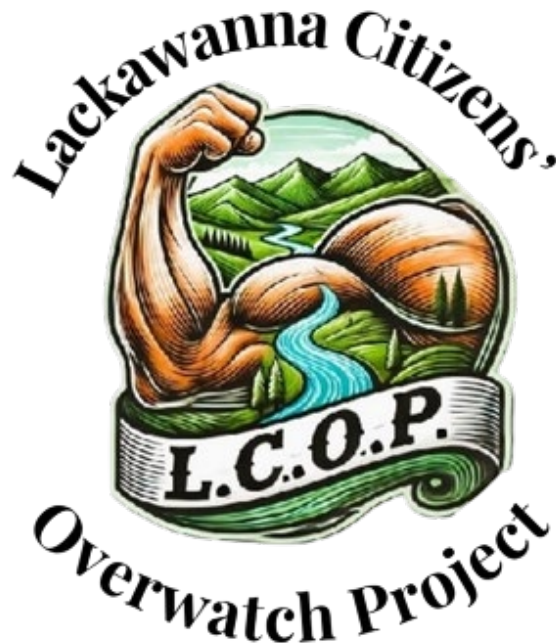
Lackawanna Energy Center (Current)

1000 Sunnyside Road Jessup, PA 18434

NOW: Data Center Development

We focus on Archbald and Olyphant

Lackawanna Citizens' Overwatch Project (L.C.O.P.) is a grassroots community advocacy and watchdog organization that began in **2024 after the death of my father from cancer**. Before he passed, he believed his illness may have been connected to exposures from his former employer, which led us to start asking questions, filing records requests, and digging into the environmental history surrounding the **former Specialty Records/ WEA/ Cinram facility** that once was Pennsylvania's largest employer that manufactured Records, CD's, and DVD's. What began as a search for answers for one family has grown into a broader effort focused on environmental concerns, government transparency, corporate accountability, historic contamination, cancer-related exposure concerns, and proposed data center development throughout Lackawanna County. Our mission is to **follow the facts, demand transparency, protect our communities, and make sure residents have a voice in decisions that could affect their health, environment, and quality of life for generations.**



Website: www.LackawannaCitizensOverwatchProject.com

Facebook: facebook.com/LackawannaCitizens

Email: LCOPActionNetwork@gmail.com

Mobile: 570-866-0900

Specialty Records/ WEA Mfg/ Cinram/ Technicolor Past Contamination

This is L.C.O.P.'s main objective. The former facility in Olyphant, PA operated from 1946 until its closure in 2018, undergoing several ownership transitions over its more than 70-year industrial history, including Specialty Records / WEA Mfg / Cinram / Technicolor. The facility played a major role in the region's manufacturing economy for decades before ceasing operations in 2018. In 2020, the building was fully demolished as part of redevelopment efforts, and the property was later acquired by an unrelated company for construction of the new Canpack facility.

WEA Mfg, originally named for Warner-Elektra-Atlantic, became part of one of the world's largest media conglomerates following the 2001 merger between America Online (AOL) and Time Warner. Because Warner Music Group operated under the Time Warner umbrella at the time, WEA Mfg ultimately became a subsidiary of the newly formed AOL Time Warner corporation during the height of the company's media and entertainment expansion.

The height of WEA Manufacturing's recorded chemical emissions occurred around 2001, when the facility released nearly 100 tons of VOCs into the air. This volume pushed the plant to the federal "Major Source" threshold under the Clean Air Act. Environmental and workplace safety incidents were most heavily concentrated between the 1990s and early 2000s, including:

- **1993:** OSHA cited the facility for safety violations involving the exposure of 50 employees to benzene, a known carcinogen.
- **1999:** A drum excavation unearthed 48 buried drums of toxic waste, with some contaminant levels exceeding EPA health standards.
- **2001–2002:** The plant operated vacuum apparatuses and industrial degreasers without proper Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval, releasing additional unmonitored VOCs .

Many more can be found on our website: www.LackawannaCitizensOverwatchProject.com

Based on information collected from families, public records, and available documentation:

- 110+ former employees have been reported as having **died from cancer**.
- 200+ additional former employees are listed as deceased with cause of death currently under review.
- 100+ former employees are reported to be **currently living with cancer diagnoses**.

According to former employee accounts and available OSHA documentation, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was reportedly not consistently enforced at the facility, despite employees working with hazardous chemicals and industrial solvents. OSHA records also reportedly include violations related to inadequate employee safety training, no hazard communication, and not providing employees with proper education on handling and usage of chemical substances within the workplace.

High-risk toxins handled without mandated PPE or safety training: Trichloroethylene (TCE), Vinyl Chloride (Chloroethene), Benzene, UV Lacquer, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (TCA), Methyl Isobutyl Ketone (MIBK), Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), Nickel Compounds, Lead Compounds, Cobalt Compounds among other potentially hazardous substances.

In 1999, forty-eight drums of toxic waste, including high-concentration carcinogens, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, and heavy metals were excavated just feet from our neighborhoods. These 'poisons' don't stay in the dirt; they turn into gas and rise into our homes. It is called vapor intrusion. Validated laboratory results indicate the presence of the above-mentioned cancer-causing chemicals in these deliberately concealed buried drums. Based on a review of publicly available documentation and correspondence, there is no documentation that the public was made aware of this discovery and no documentation (including RTKL requests) to say that the EPA was made aware either.

In 2020, after the former Specialty Records / WEA Mfg / Cinram facility had ceased operations and prior to demolition activities associated with redevelopment, the PA DEP conducted soil and soil-gas testing at the site as part of environmental evaluation efforts related to the property's industrial history and future use. There was the removal of toxic levels of Cobalt and Selenium from 99 acres of property totaling about 35 tons of soil. "9 areas of concern were identified at the site based on previously conducted phases. A total of 50 soil samples and 6 sub-slab soil gas samples were collected and analyzed... Cobalt and Selenium were identified above the non-residential Statewide Health Standards (SHS) in 3 of the areas of concern.... 2 wells at the center of the site contained concentrations of Aluminum, Iron, Lead, and Manganese above the SHS." Again, based on a review of publicly available documentation and correspondence, there is no documentation that the public was made aware of this discovery.

If you have ever seen the movie ***Dark Waters* starring Mark Ruffalo**, it gives a powerful sense of the kind of fight we are facing. The movie shows how difficult it can be to prove that long-term chemical exposure is connected to cancer and other illnesses, especially when the evidence is buried in decades of records and the people seeking answers are up against powerful corporations and institutions. That is very similar to the challenges

L.C.O.P. faces as we work to piece together environmental records, employee reports, contamination findings, medical histories, and hundreds of cancer cases in an effort to uncover the truth and determine whether these exposures contributed to what happened in our community.

Marjol Battery Past Contamination

The Marjol Battery Site located in Throop, PA was one of the most heavily contaminated industrial sites in Northeastern Pennsylvania. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, the facility crushed and recycled used lead-acid batteries, reclaiming lead while dumping massive amounts of battery casings, contaminated soil, and industrial waste on-site. The contamination spread into nearby neighborhoods, leading the EPA and Pennsylvania DEP to oversee a decades-long cleanup effort. Investigators found approximately 372,000 cubic yards of lead-contaminated waste, along with dangerous chemicals including PCBs and PAHs. Cleanup crews eventually had to remediate 133 nearby residential and commercial properties because lead contamination had spread into the surrounding community. The site was later capped with a large engineered landfill system to contain the toxic material permanently.

There is no official government number stating exactly how many people became sick from the contamination, and agencies have generally avoided making direct cause-and-effect conclusions about cancer or illness rates tied specifically to the site. However, the contamination was serious enough that blood lead screening programs were conducted in the community, and lead exposure, especially in children, is known to cause neurological damage, developmental problems, cardiovascular disease, and other long-term health effects.

Yes.... some residents near the Marjol Battery Site were effectively displaced or heavily impacted during the cleanup process, although it was not a large-scale government evacuation like Love Canal. The EPA found widespread lead contamination in nearby residential yards and properties, and over 130 residential and commercial properties required cleanup or remediation because lead dust and contaminated material had spread off-site. During portions of the remediation, some residents had to temporarily leave their homes while contaminated soil was excavated and replaced.

The Marjol site became one of the most controversial environmental cleanup projects in Lackawanna County because of the scale of contamination and fears about long-term public health impacts in nearby communities.

- The battery recycling operations shut down in April 1982.
 - The site was stabilized in 1992.
 - Major final remediation and construction work began in May 2008.
 - EPA declared the final cleanup construction complete on August 5, 2010.
-

Keystone Sanitary Landfill Current Contamination

Keystone Sanitary Landfill located in Dunmore, PA and Throop, PA has become one of the most controversial environmental and political issues in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Originally opened in the 1970s, the landfill steadily expanded over decades into what is now considered the largest landfill in Pennsylvania, covering roughly 714 acres and taking in thousands of tons of garbage per day from Pennsylvania as well as other states including New York and New Jersey. Critics argue that NEPA has effectively become a dumping ground for out-of-state waste, while local communities bear the environmental and quality-of-life consequences.

One of the biggest ongoing concerns involves leachate, the contaminated liquid produced when rainwater filters through garbage. Residents and environmental advocates have repeatedly raised fears about potential contamination of nearby waterways, groundwater, creeks, and the Lackawanna River watershed. The landfill has faced scrutiny over leachate storage and treatment systems, and DEP documents show the company was cited for exceeding leachate storage capacity and sought permits connected to wastewater discharge proposals. Public concern intensified because of the landfill's proximity to reservoirs and waterways connected to regional drinking water systems.

Odor complaints have become one of the most visible public issues surrounding the landfill. Residents from Dunmore, Throop, Scranton, Jessup, Archbald, and surrounding communities have complained for years about powerful sulfur-like and "rotten egg" odors linked to landfill gas and leachate lagoons. In 2023 and 2024, the Pennsylvania DEP issued multiple Notices of Violation against the landfill after documenting hundreds of complaints and personally confirming strong off-site odors at homes and neighborhoods. DEP inspectors described "malodors" serious enough to affect public quality of life, and the agency eventually imposed a \$575,000 penalty, the largest DEP penalty issued to the landfill in at least a decade.

The landfill's continued expansion has also fueled major backlash. In 2021, DEP approved a Phase III expansion allowing tens of millions of additional tons of waste over coming decades, despite strong opposition from community groups like Friends of Lackawanna and many local residents who argued the region had already sacrificed enough

environmentally. Opponents have spent years appealing the expansion and arguing that the landfill has already grown beyond what nearby communities should have to tolerate. Even after repeated odor violations, operational controversies, and environmental concerns, the landfill has continued seeking permit renewals and operational extensions.

The landfill is closely associated with the DeNaples family, particularly Louis DeNaples and relatives involved in landfill operations and regional business interests. The family has long been viewed as politically powerful and deeply connected in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Public criticism and fear surrounding that influence has become part of the local conversation for years, especially among residents and activists who believe challenging the landfill can bring political or social consequences. There have been persistent public perceptions that the DeNaples family holds significant influence in local politics and mafia business circles, though those views are often expressed informally by residents and critics rather than through official findings.

Lackawanna Energy Center Current Contamination

The Lackawanna Energy Center in Jessup, PA is a large natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plant that began construction in 2016 and reached full commercial operation around 2019. The Lackawanna Energy Center is ranked **fourth** on the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center "Dirty Dozen" report, meaning it is the fourth highest climate polluter statewide. It was developed by Invenergy on a former coal mining site in Lackawanna County, taking advantage of the region's access to low-cost natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. The facility produces roughly 1,480 to 1,500 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about one million homes, and it does not serve a single town or utility directly. Instead, it feeds electricity into the PJM Interconnection grid, which distributes power across 13 U.S. states (DE, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, NJ, NC, OH, PA, TN, VA, WV) and the District of Columbia.

Despite being labeled a "cleaner" alternative to coal, the plant still releases significant air pollution into the surrounding environment. It emits carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change, as well as nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), all of which can contribute to smog formation and degraded air quality in the region. These pollutants can affect nearby communities by increasing respiratory irritation and worsening conditions like asthma, especially when combined with other regional industrial and traffic emissions. In addition, the plant's reliance on natural gas means that methane emissions occur upstream during extraction and transport, further adding to its overall environmental footprint. While modern controls reduce some pollution

compared to older coal plants, the facility still represents a large, continuous source of fossil fuel emissions impacting the surrounding air and environment.

Our Geography

Our geography makes us a target as well. The high-velocity winds coming off the Waymart ridge act as a conveyor belt, carrying the tons of industrial toxins from the past and current polluters and funneling them directly into the homes of Olyphant, Throop, Dunmore, etc. The cancer clusters we see today aren't a coincidence, they are located exactly where the wind and the valley floor meet.

- **How it works:** On many nights and early mornings, cool air from the mountain ridges sinks into the valley floor, trapping a layer of warmer air above it.
 - **The Impact:** This creates a literal "lid" over the borough. Instead of the tons of VOCs drifting up and away, the inversion layer forces them back down toward the ground. For hours at a time, the community is essentially breathing in a concentrated "soup" of whatever the facilities are emitting that day.
-

NOW: Data Centers Proposals

Project Wildcat Ridge Archbald, PA - **FOURTEEN** massive industrial buildings where there used to be forest.

Project Gravity Archbald, PA - 1.93 million square foot data center campus with **SEVEN** seventy foot industrial buildings.

Project Archbald Conditional Use - **EIGHTEEN** buildings on 400 acre industrial campus, more than 5.5 million square feet of data center infrastructure.

Project Green Mountain Archbald, PA - Spanning 271 acres, roughly 33 football fields, built around **SEVEN** data centers, each rising 65 feet above the ridgeline.

Project Triboro Park Olyphant, PA - **FOUR** large buildings right off Marshwood Road, DeNaples owns the land.

Throop, PA Has not yet received an application for a Data Center but they have zoned out a location should they get one. DeNaples owns the land (We think). This is across the street from the Triboro Park Olyphant proposal.

The Archbald, PA Data Center campus's are the second largest Data Center campus proposal in the country!

In conclusion, Taken together, the long industrial history of the former **Specialty Records/WEA/Cinram facility**, the documented lead contamination associated with the nearby **Marjol Battery Site**, and the ongoing concerns surrounding **Keystone Landfill** leachate and legacy industrial waste throughout the region have created growing fears with us here at L.C.O.P. about the cumulative environmental burden already present beneath Lackawanna County. We are particularly concerned because **much of the area sits above interconnected abandoned mine networks, fractured bedrock, and subsurface voids that can potentially act as pathways for contaminated groundwater, industrial vapors, methane, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to migrate above ground during data center construction**. We fear that large-scale redevelopment projects, including proposed data center construction requiring deep excavation, pile driving, drilling, blasting, and extensive underground infrastructure work, **could disturb historically contaminated soils and subsurface conditions that have remained relatively undisturbed for decades**.

Concerns have specifically focused on chemicals historically associated with industrial activity in the area, including benzene, trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), vinyl chloride, heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, nickel, cobalt, and other hazardous compounds linked in toxicology literature to elevated cancer risks and long-term health impacts. **We worry that disturbing mine voids, contaminated fill, groundwater pathways, landfill leachate zones, or buried industrial waste could potentially increase the movement of toxic vapors or contaminated dust into surrounding neighborhoods through mechanisms such as vapor intrusion, groundwater migration, or airborne particulate release**. For many in the community, these concerns are amplified by the **unusually high number of former industrial workers and local residents reportedly affected by cancer and chronic illness over the past several decades**.

As a result, we argue that far more comprehensive environmental investigation, long-term monitoring, public transparency, and independent health review should occur before additional large-scale industrial redevelopment proceeds within a region already burdened by a complex legacy of mining, manufacturing, landfill activity, and industrial contamination.

Environmental Contamination

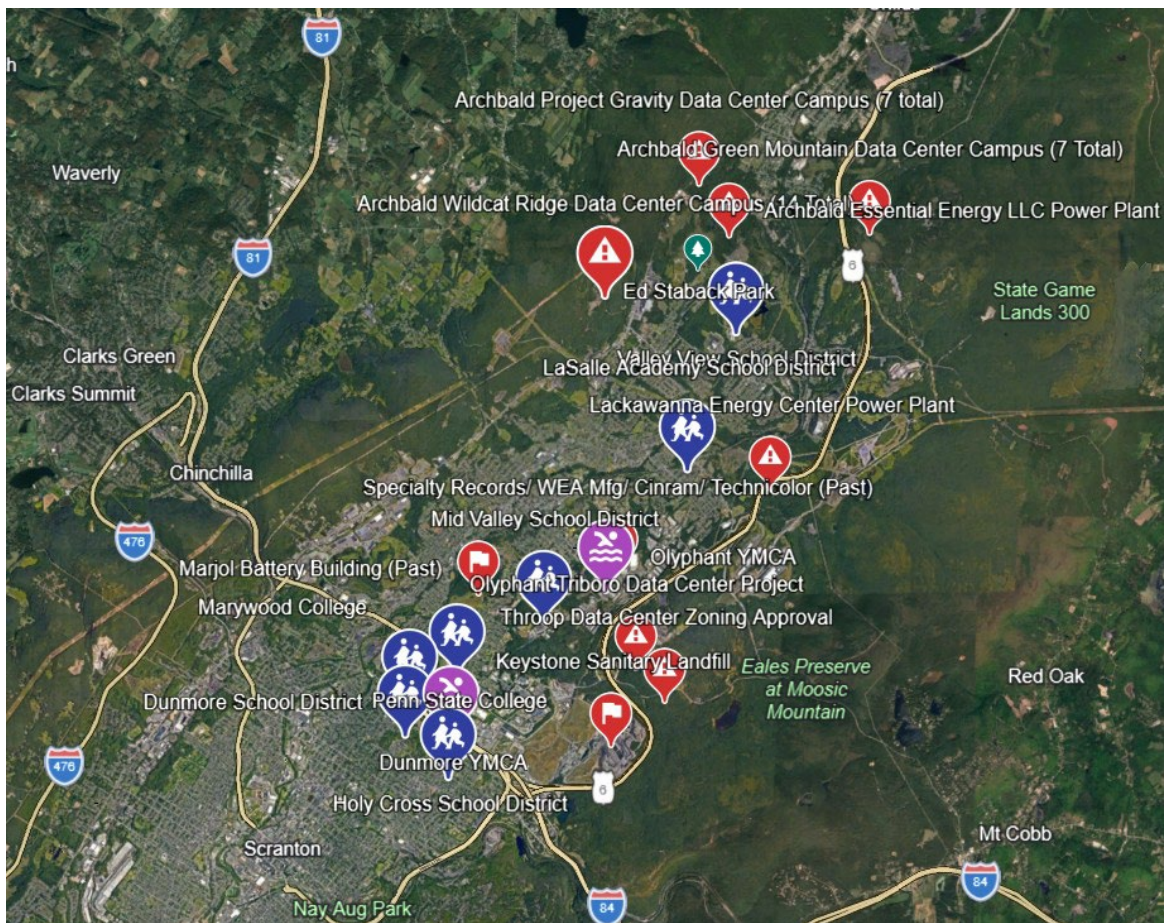
Green Circle: Former Specialty Records/WEA/Cinram Facility

Yellow Circle: Keystone Landfill

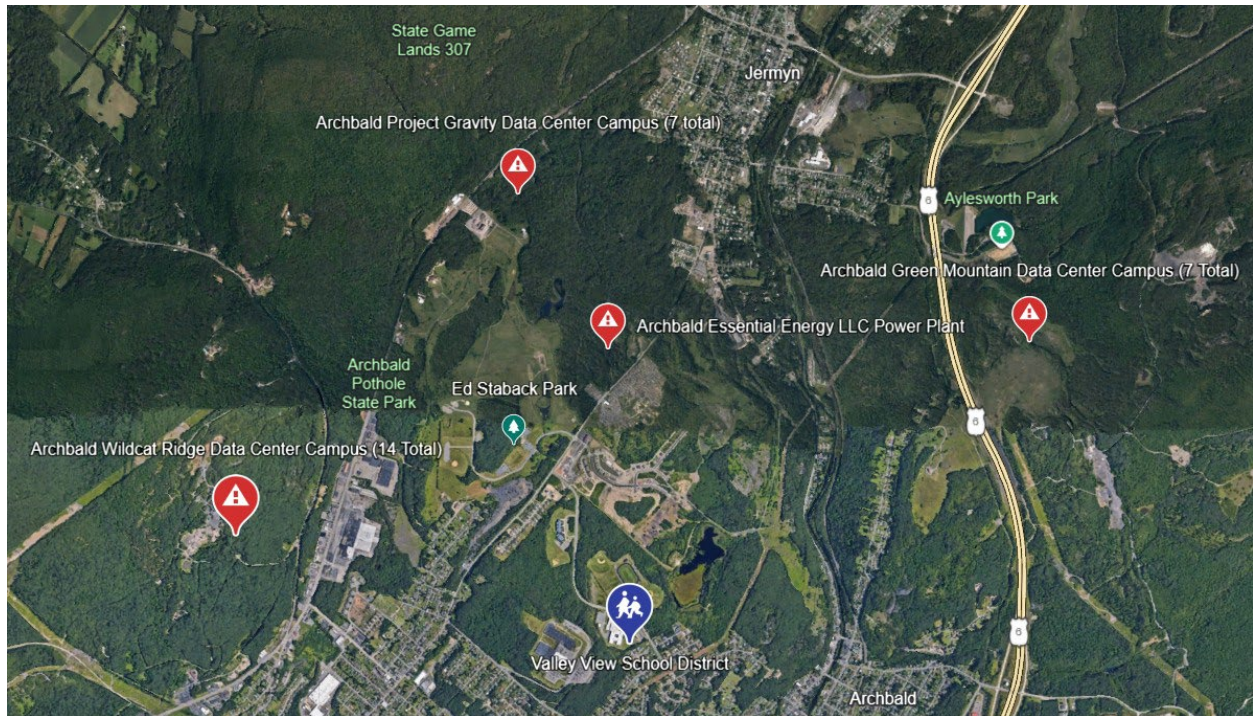
Red Circle: Proposed Olyphant Data Center Campus

Blue Circle: Throop Data Center Zoning
(no active Data Center application in Throop...yet)

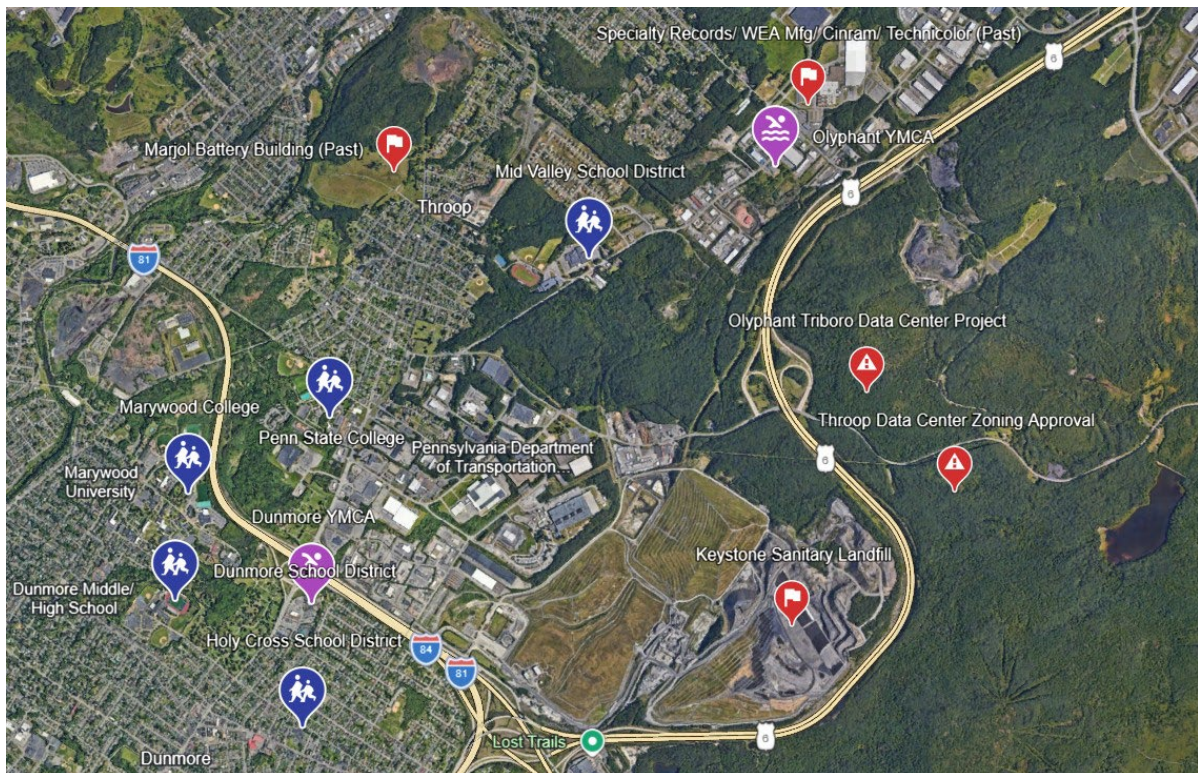
Yellow Line: Marshwood Road



Map1: Complete View



Map2: Archbald



Map3: Olyphant



Data Centers/Power Plants



Pre-existing Land Contamination



School Districts



YMCA Locations

Keep in mind this is only ARCHBALD and OLYPHANT