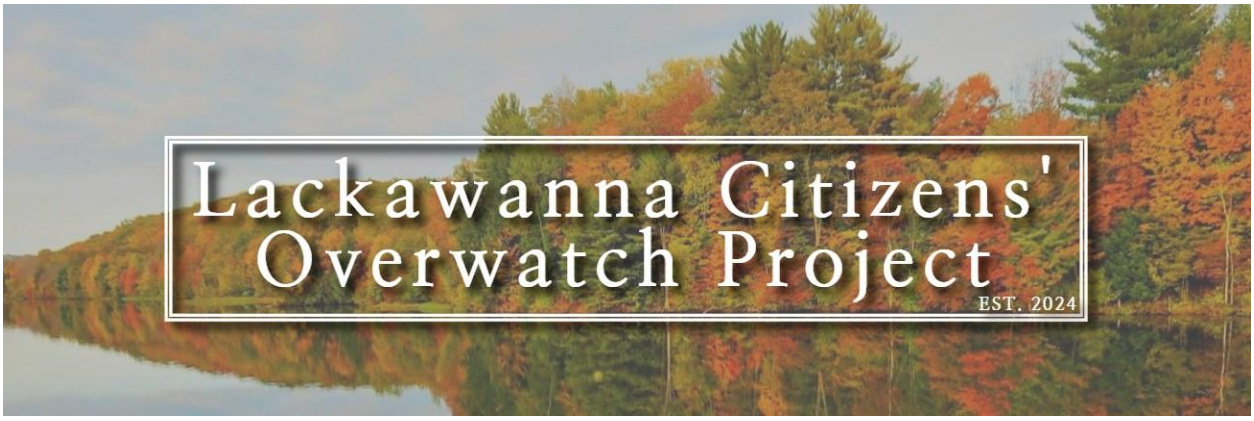

Summary: Overall Health Risks – Past/Current Contamination

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

Specialty Records/ WEA Mfg/ Cinram/ Technicolor Past Contamination

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 barrels 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 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***.
- **190+** 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, hazard communication, and the proper handling and use 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.***

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 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. 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

(Keep in mind this is ***just*** in the borough of Archbald, PA – There are also proposals for similar projects in the neighboring boroughs as well, such as Olyphant, Dickson City, Jessup, etc)

**All information was taken from their website:
https://stoparchbalddatacenters.notion.site/STOP-Archbald-Data-Centers-32ca4bb7caed8033b6ccc7229baaf465

Project Wildcat Ridge Archbald, PA

FOURTEEN massive industrial buildings where there used to be forest.

Key Details

- 574 diesel generators proposed on-site
- 1,148,000 gallons of diesel fuel stored on the mountain. 2,000 gallons per generator
- 1,600 MW power demand requiring more than $93 million in local grid upgrades just to keep the lights on at this one site
- 3,300,000 gallons of water consumed daily at peak, equivalent to the daily needs of a small city
- 200 acres of forest permanently clear-cut. Habitat and green space gone for good
- 2,500 additional vehicle trips per day. A 13.6% increase on roads that already serve our neighborhoods
- 570 acre industrial footprint sitting directly above residential Archbald, permanently reshaping the valley below

Project Gravity Archbald, PA

1.93 million square foot data center campus with ***SEVEN*** seventy foot industrial buildings.

Key Details

- 186 acres of forested woodland cleared for a high-intensity industrial complex
- 1.93 million square feet of development. Estimates have nearly doubled from original projections

- Seven 70 foot industrial buildings legally permitted as close as 40 feet from residential property lines
- 91,000 gallons of water consumed daily. 77,000 for cooling, 14,000 for domestic use
- Diesel backup generators with noise, vibration, and odor reports deferred; developer acknowledges designs are currently “speculative”
- State permit application flagged “technically deficient” by the Lackawanna County Conservation District
- No public hearings. No Borough Council vote. A by-right use under the 2023 ordinance

Project Archbald Conditional Use

EIGHTEEN buildings on 400 acre industrial campus, more than 5.5 million square feet of data center infrastructure.

Key Details

- 400 acres, 18 buildings, 5.5 million square feet, structures reaching 90 feet tall, sitting directly next to Archbald Pothole State Park and the youth soccer fields at Ed Staback Memorial Park
- Three electrical substations and a large switchyard to tap into high voltage transmission lines already crossing the property
- A generator yard the size of nearly two football fields attached to every building. Diesel and possible natural gas backup power potentially running around the clock, with the overlay ordinance legally permitting a permanent 5 decibel noise increase for anyone living within 2,500 feet
- 8 foot anticlimb fencing and 24/7 staffed guard stations enclosing what is currently mature woodland and open space
- Wetlands disturbed, existing structures destroyed and a landscape with deep anthracite mining history permanently erased
- 2,068 additional vehicle trips every weekday at full build out, with access points on both the Scranton Carbondale Highway and Eynon-Jermyn Road
- Public hearings are legally required before any vote and critical questions about water supply and electrical capacity have not been heard due to a denial of the application because of a clerical error resulting in an unmet statutory requirement.

Project Green Mountain Archbald, PA

Spanning 271 acres, roughly 33 football fields, built around ***SEVEN*** data centers, each rising 65 feet above the ridgeline.

Key Details

- 271 acres of natural community backdrop permanently converted to high intensity industrial use
- 1.93 million square feet across seven data centers, a footprint the size of 33 football fields
- 196 diesel generators with nearly 2 million gallons of fuel stored on-site → 10,000 gallons per generator
- 280 roof-mounted industrial chillers running 24/7, producing a constant mechanical hum across the valley
- 14,000 gallons of water consumed daily to keep the facility operational
- 45 decibels of permanent noise, engineered to the edge of the Borough's strictest residential limit

Project Archbald North

A 66 acre industrial data center campus.

Key Details

- 66 acres of woodland clear-cut replaced by over 33 acres of impervious concrete, asphalt, and rooftops
- Three to four data center buildings at 124,200 sq ft each, soaring 70 feet high and permitted as close as 40 feet from the front property line
- A 350'×400' high voltage substation and a 74,970 sq ft generator yard potentially housing nearly 30 diesel generators, bringing constant industrial noise and exhaust directly into residential backyards
- Water consumption left blank. The developer's intent to service letter from Pennsylvania American Water contains no figure for cooling system demand, leaving the community with no information about the draw on local supply
- Primary access routed through residential Jermyn creating heavy construction and daily operational traffic funneled directly onto Lackawanna Street

Project Archbald Scott

A 400 plus acre industrial data center campus ***sixteen*** data center buildings, each over 124,000 square feet.

Key Details

- 16 to 18 data center buildings at 124,200 sq ft each. Site plans label structures up to Building 18, suggesting the project may be larger than the developer's own narrative states
- A 74,970 sq ft generator yard attached to every building creating dedicated industrial power infrastructure repeated across the entire campus
- Up to 884,000 gallons of water per day at peak demand with an average daily draw of 255,000 gallons
- A 760'×850' switching station and at least four separate substations creating industrial scale electrical infrastructure positioned directly next to residential zones
- Minimum building setbacks of just 40 feet despite the scale of the structures and infrastructure involved
- Impervious surface requiring multiple large detention ponds. Existing woodland and open fields replaced by millions of square feet of concrete and rooftops draining toward the Lackawanna River
- Required studies still missing as of November 2025; Archbald Borough is still demanding noise limits, vibration evaluation, lighting plans, and steep slope mitigation from the developer

Project Boson Archbald, PA

A 70.5 acre former auto salvage yard for a ***single*** 619,925 square-foot data center reaching up to 70 feet high.

Key Details

- 619,925 sq ft data center plus a 20,000 sq ft operations building up to 70 feet tall across a 70.5-acre property
- Bordered on three sides by residential neighborhoods yet permitted to build as close as 40 feet from side yards and 50 feet from back yards
- 748 new vehicle trips per day added to Eynon-Jermyn Road via a newly constructed full access driveway

- A new on site electric utility substation required, plus up to 8,500 gallons of water drawn daily from Pennsylvania American Water
- 42% of the property paved or roofed over 8 acres of forested wetlands on site requiring 20 separate stormwater control measures to manage the runoff
- No public hearing. No Borough Council vote. Permitted by right in this commercial zone. One of the ways for community to provide input is through DEP and PennDOT permitting reviews

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In conclusion, Taken together, the long industrial history of the ***former Specialty Records / WEA Mfg / Cinram facility, the documented lead contamination associated with the nearby Marjol Battery Site, and the ongoing concerns surrounding landfill leachate and legacy industrial waste*** throughout the region have created growing fears with us here at the Lackawanna Citizens' Overwatch Project (L.C.O.P.) about the cumulative environmental burden already present beneath Lackawanna County. Environmental advocates and L.C.O.P. 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.***


Archbald
Power Plant
WEA/ Cinram
Marjol Battery
Keystone Landfill
Valley View High School
EYNON
STURGES
Main St
Kennedy Dr
Archbald
Layton Rd
347
S Main St
WINTON
Blakely
PECKVILLE
Lackawanna River
Church St
Hill St
Jessup
Lackawanna Energ...
Dickson City
Olyphant
S Valley Ave
Main St
1400 E Lackawanna...
Moosic Lake Rd
Boulevard Ave
Throop
Cypress St
Marshwood Rd
Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain
N Main Ave
Marywood University
600 Delaware St
NORTH SCRANTON
Keystone Sanitary L...
Dunmore
Lost Trails
81
11
6