

What is a C & D Facility and Why should we be concerned ?

Construction and demolition (C & D) debris comes from construction, remodeling, repair and demolition of structures and roads: waste from land clearing and grubbing, utility line maintenance and seasonal and storm related cleanup. C & D waste can include bricks, concrete, and other masonry fixtures, insulation, roofing, shingles, asphalt pavement, glass, plastics, electrical wiring, metals and dry wall according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Three million tons of C & D debris are produced every year in NY State alone. This is according to a Cornell University paper on Waste Management.

Some of these toxic materials are serious polluters of our environment

Old building materials contain **adhesives, solvents, PCB's, asbestos, lead paint, PVC products, and products that create noxious odors.** What appears harmless takes on a different face as it decomposes.

PVC - many pipes and other building materials are made of this plastic which releases toxic hydrogen chloride when heated, which becomes lethal hydrochloric acid when inhaled. If there is a fire this is disastrous. PVC is the worst plastic from an environmental health perspective posing major hazards in its manufacturing life and disposal.

PCB's - used electrical equipment, paints, plastics, dyes, and many other applications. According to the EPA PCB's are probable human carcinogens and some accumulate in fish. Non cancer effects include immune, reproductive, neurological and endocrine system problems.

Hydrogen Sulfide Gas - Noxious Odors (Rotten Egg Smell) this is the result of decomposing gypsum board (dry wall or wall board). This gas hangs over an area and has been a constant problem at sites through out New York State. Respiratory problems from this gas have been found among residents living near C & D sites by the department of health.

Heavy Metals - Lead and Iron - think of all the old paint and pipes in old buildings.

Arsenic - millions of board feet of pressure treated wood have been produced and used in decks, picnic tables, playground equip. telephone poles, docks, etc. Inorganic arsenic is a know human carcinogen.

Asbestos - these particles become air borne and create irreversible damage to people.

Asphalt / tar paper - Petroleum based products will produce toxic effects as they decompose.

Dust - Landfill dust really is more than just very fine dirt particles it may contain toxic materials such as fiberglass, asbestos and lead.

Traffic Impact - Possibility of 200 trucks per day traveling I-86 and US 62 to get to Frewsburg and then out Frew Run Road, to Wiltsie Road, to Dodge Road. These are State Highways, County Highway, and Town Roads. The debris will be coming from a 200 mile radius and traveling thru many communities along the way.

Road Debris - This happens as a result of things falling out of trucks,

even though it is supposed to be covered and secured. There are many ways that items can be dislodged or become airborne as the tractor trailer goes about the business of delivering their loads.

Diesel Exhaust & Air Pollution - Emissions from a diesel fueled truck are one of the worst environmental costs of land filling. This exhaust produces many hazardous gases and particles in the air. There are proven risks to diesel exhaust. The major components of diesel exhaust are **carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, nitric oxide, particulates and sulfur dioxide.**

Noise - The sound power of the noise from a heavy truck is on the order of some 300 times greater than normal street noise. One diesel heavy truck produces the noise equivalent of over 32 automobiles.

Mud - roads will have more mud on them as a result of the increased truck traffic and the type of debris that they are hauling

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Sources: Eco Threat NY, Citizens Environmental Coalition, Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County, Inc. , The Dump Site, Citylimits.org, Check Out Cheektowaga/CCC, Inc., USGS (United State Geological Survey) DEC, EPA, Cornell University, Purdue University, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) Transport Canada 2000,