



Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill Press Conference

January 7, 2021



Protect PT 

Why We Are Here

- The Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill has been accepting drill cuttings and other fracking waste since 2010
- Residents have reported quality of life impacts, changes to routines due to truck traffic, smell, and air pollution.
- Half of the residents surveyed reported they lost faith in their local government to address their concerns
- An opportunity to share our concerns and the results of our survey with the media and the community through a press conference
- Questions from the press



Who is Protect PT?

Protect PT (Penn-Trafford) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring residents' safety, security, and quality of life by engaging in education and advocacy to protect the economic, environmental, and legal rights of the people in Westmoreland and Allegheny counties.

Since starting as a group of neighbors working together to protect their neighborhood from fracking in late 2014, Protect PT has grown to a community-based organization with staff, volunteers, and members.

Learn more at protectpt.org.

OUR GOALS



Educate residents and local lawmakers with factual and important information so they may better protect themselves.



Empower residents to get involved in the local government process.



Engage our lawmakers directly at local meetings and hearings to ensure our rights are protected.

Timeline

MAY 2019

Court of Common Pleas ordered to cease piping leachate to Belle Vernon Municipal Authority (BVMA) and Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL) began trucking leachate to several sites, violating their Waste Permit

JUNE 2019

PADEP informed WSL of need to apply for Minor Permit Modification

AUG. 2019

PADEP and WSL collaborated on Leachate Evaporator project

JUNE 2020

Protect PT and Mountain Watershed Association requests a public hearing on Evaporator project, to date has received no response from the PADEP

FEB. 2020

Consent Order Agreement to address violations and insist WSL apply for Minor Modification of Permit No. 100277

OCT. 2020

Second Consent Order Agreement for WSL's failure to properly cover waste, failure to maintain mud, dust, and truck traffic from access road, and failure to maintain lateral escape of of leachate

April 11, 2019

Specific conductivity: 2,200 uS/cm

Total Dissolved Solids: 1,430 mg/L (3X permitted)

Chloride: 579 mg/L

Bromide: 1.6 mg/L

Nitrate: 6.8 mg/L

Nitrite: 12 mg/L

Phosphate: 10.4 mg/L

Sulfate: 100 mg/L

226Ra: 20 pCi/L

May 30, 2019 (post restraining order)

Specific conductivity: 750 uS/cm

Total Dissolved Solids: 487 mg/L (in compliance)

Chloride: 111 mg/L

Bromide: BDL

Nitrate: 72 mg/L

Nitrite: 6.5 mg/L

Phosphate: 10 mg/L

Sulfate: 62 mg/L

Rostraver Landfill leachate



Chloride: 4,487 mg/L

Bromide: 16.7 mg/L

Sulfate: 41 mg/L

226Ra 120 pCi/L

228Ra 250 pCi/L

Why are there concerns?

1. The permit is for an “Air Emissions Plant” and only addresses the emissions for NO_x (nitrogen oxides), CO (carbon monoxide), particulates (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}), SO₂ (sulfur dioxide), VOCs (volatile organic compounds), and HAPs.
2. The “leachate” sample we analyzed was radioactive, and had high levels of chloride and bromide, as well strontium and barium.
3. Based on the chemical composition, the leachate should be labeled as “residual waste” from oil and gas operations.
4. The leachate tested had 120 pCi/L of radium 226 and 250 pCi/L of radium 226.
5. The new permit indicates that 45,000 gallons of leachate will be treated daily with a 95% reduction in volume (2,250 gallons or 8,550 liters).
6. The final material could have over 63,000,000 pCi of radium (7,400 pCi/L). Per day.
7. No testing for radioactivity or decontamination of equipment is required in the current permit.







INORGANIC METALS

Analyst: **RLR**

EPA 200.2

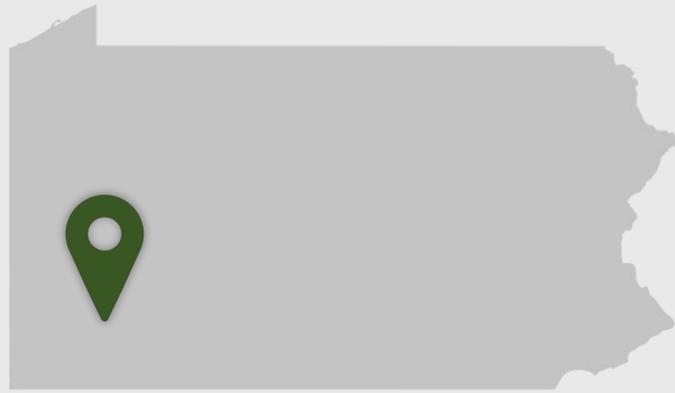
| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|------|------|-----|------------------|
| Antimony | 1230 | 50.0 | µg/L | 50 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Arsenic | 2930 | 50.0 | µg/L | 50 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Barium | 39.7 | 5.0 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Cadmium | 1.5 | 0.2 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Chromium | 12.6 | 1.0 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Copper | 15.0 | 1.0 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Lead | 23.3 | 1.0 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Nickel | 333 | 2.5 | µg/L | 5 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Rubidium | 815 | 50.0 | µg/L | 10 | 06/06/20 6:20 AM |
| Selenium | 178 | 5.0 | µg/L | 5 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Silver | < 0.2 | 0.2 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Strontium | 25800 | 2500 | µg/L | 500 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Tungsten | 160 | 25.0 | µg/L | 5 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |
| Uranium | < 1.0 | 1.0 | µg/L | 1 | 06/04/20 7:20 AM |





Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill's operations are reducing residents' quality of life.

In our survey of 110 community members, we uncovered social, political, economic, and medical issues caused by the landfill.



WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA



REPORT FINDINGS



Daily habits are being disrupted.



Residents have lost faith in local government.



Cost of living in the area is increasing.



Residents are noticing changes in their health.

Residents' daily habits are being disrupted.

70% of respondents reported seeing sludge on the road, which many car owners say they must regularly wash off their vehicles. Potentially toxic run off is only one part of the issue. Excessive truck traffic around the landfill and a bothersome odor also plague residents.

“ My only enjoyment was sitting outside on the porch. I can't even do that because of the smell. We're prisoners in our own house.”

– CAROL B.



60%

Consider the impacts created by the landfill bothersome



27%

Are spending less time outside

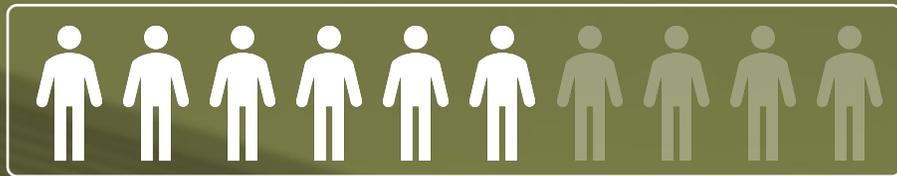
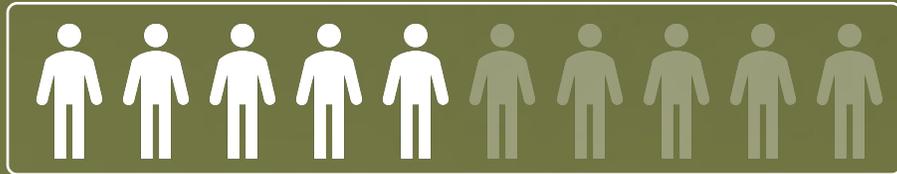


50%

Have changed driving routes to avoid traffic

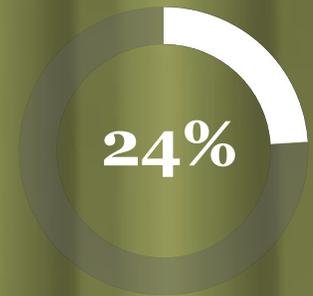
Residents have lost faith in local government.

Concern over the effects of the landfill is a political issue lurking beneath the surface. Despite the majority of respondents reporting they've lost faith in local government, only 24% have talked to officials about the site.



“ [We] cannot get any support from those elected to office to protect us.

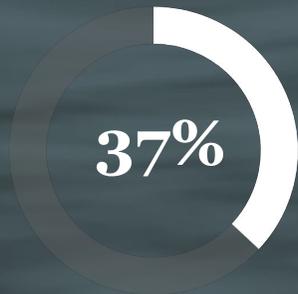
– JAMES S.



Have talked to local government about the site

The landfill is increasing residents' cost of living.

Concerns over air and water quality are forcing residents to incur additional costs to live in the area. For residents living at or below the poverty line, these added costs take up an even larger share of household income.



Are drinking bottled water



+ \$2,270 / year



Have installed air filtering systems



+ \$2,507 / household

“ My car is covered with that sludge from the road, I have spent well over \$100 to wash my car and I'm sure I'm not alone.

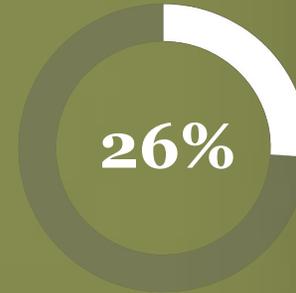
– **JOYCE A.**

Residents' are noticing changes in their health.

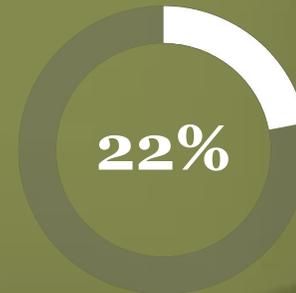
37% of residents consider the impacts created by the landfill damaging to their or their family's health. Many report changes to their health since the landfill has been in operation near their homes including some who have sought medical attention.

“ My son had cancer when he was 17 and again 19. Although it was never proven, we have often wondered if the landfill was a factor in his illness.

– **DONNA B.**



Have noticed changes in health



Have noticed dizziness and/or loss of balance



Have gone to a doctor because of changes in health



Appendix

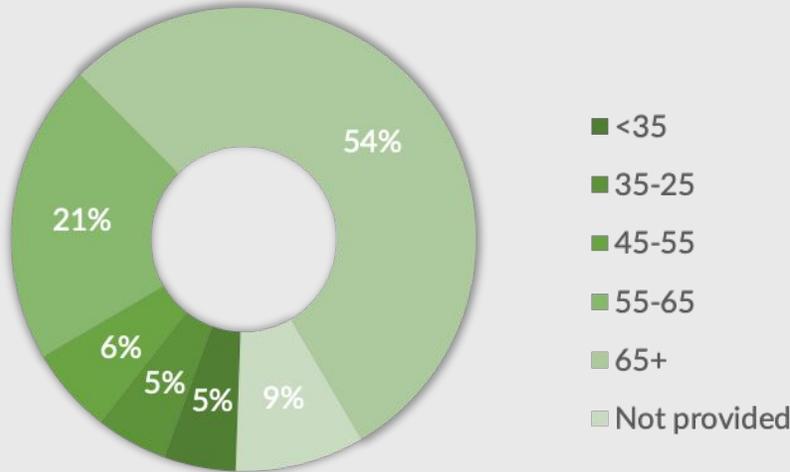
Methodology

Protect PT fielded a voluntary response survey of residents in the X area between X date and Y date. Responses were collected via both a web form and paper, mail-in response forms. This report analyzes the survey responses of a sampling of 110 residents.

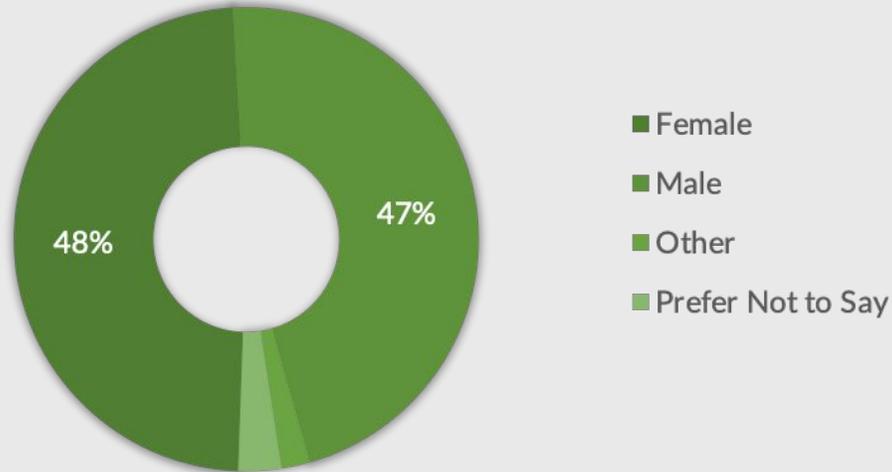


Respondent Profile

Age

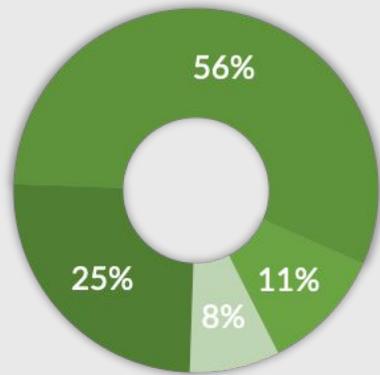


Gender



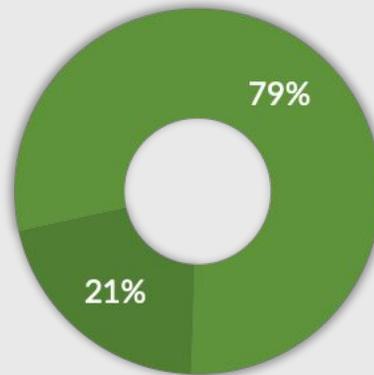
Respondent Profile

Distance from Landfill



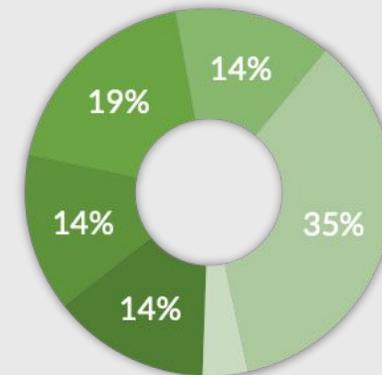
- <1 mile
- 1-2 miles
- 2+ miles
- Not provided

Home Ownership Status



- Do Not Own Home
- Own Home

Length of Residency



- <5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-30 year
- >30 years
- Not Provided

Contact Us

WEBSITE

protectpt.org

OFFICE ADDRESS

3344 Route 130, Suite D
Harrison City, PA 15636

MAILING ADDRESS

PO BOX 137
Harrison City, PA 15636-0137

PHONE

(724) 392-7023

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



OUR STAFF

Gillian Graber
Executive Director &
Co-Founder
Protect PT

gillian@protectpt.org



Patrick Campbell
Project & Outreach Coordinator
Protect PT

patrick@protectpt.org



Mary Obringer
Outreach Assistant
Protect PT

mary@protectpt.org



Dr. John Stolz
Professor, Environmental
Microbiology
Duquesne University
412-396-6333

stolz@duq.edu



Eric Harder
Youghiogeny RIVERKEEPER®
Mountain Watershed
Association

724-455-4200 2#

eric@mtwatershed.com



@ProtectPT



@Protect.PT

Questions from the Press

Next Actions

- Take the Mountain Watershed Association new Waste Stream Survey
<http://bit.ly/wastestreamsurvey>
- Call your local and state representative
- Visit Protectpt.org for updates on these issues
- Learn how to better document and report local environmental issues to PA DEP by attending our Home Resource Guide meeting
<https://bit.ly/HRGJan2021>



WHO IS AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT



Speakers



Residents



Elected Officials



WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA