

July 21, 2004

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to you regarding the Water Filtration Plant that the DEP has proposed siting in Van Cortlandt Park. Last year, the NYS State Senate and Assembly at the urging of the City Council, gave the Mayor the ability to alienate part of the South East section of the park for construction of a water filtration plant contingent upon a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a further review of the sites under consideration.

Many of the arguments put forward by the DEP at that time and since are flawed. The DEP appears to have manipulated both construction and operating costs at the two sites to make the Bronx site appear more attractive. Despite the findings issued by DEP Commissioner Ward, an objective reading of the DEP's own site review suggests that there are many benefits of building the plant at the Eastview location. There also appears to be a clear bias in the way that the DEP measured impact between the two locations, including serious questions about how they considered who would be impacted and what those impacts would be. In addition neither the City nor the State legislature was fully briefed by the DEP that construction of the plant in the Bronx would result in several Westchester townships having to construct their own chemical plants. This hardship for Westchester residents can be avoided if the plant is built at the Eastview location. This point of leverage with Westchester County was apparently never explored by the DEP.

Although I voted for the alienation bill I now believe that we should not allow the City to build the park at this site and I am asking Assembly Speaker Silver to reject the Memorandum of Understanding. I am writing to ask that you also call on Council Speaker Miller to reject the MOU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Klein". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeff Klein