

June 9, 2015

Re: the 507 acre annexation proposal by Village of Kiryas Joel

Dear Town of Monroe officials, State of New York officials, Kiryas Joel officials:

My name is Marty Rowland, adjunct professor at Pace University, Pleasantville, and licensed professional environmental engineer.

I teach ecosystem management. I was asked by a student to comment on the proposed annexation, as she is concerned about the capacity of the local sewage treatment system and water supply system to handle the expected growth that would follow this annexation; and about the track record of the Village of Kiryas Joel in its discharge of environmental pollutants into adjoining water ways.

The 507-acre Annexation DGEIS, on page 8-2, says that “expansion of water and sewer service ... may result in future demand for these services...” This appears to state the problem backwards, as an approval of annexation will drive the stated desire of the Village of Kiryas Joel to expand the construction of multi-story housing, which will then strain the capacity of the local sewer system to handle the additional flows. If the Village plans to use septic systems for this growth, there needs to be an analysis of whether the local watershed can accommodate this increase in nitrogen, phosphorus, and ammonia. If, on the other hand, the Village plans to build its own treatment plant and hire a professional crew to run it, then everything may be just fine. But there is no indication that this is the Village’s intent.

It is the responsibility of the State of New York to critically analyze this type of impact. The concern I have is that the Village of Kiryas Joel is the lead agency in the preparation of the DGEIS; an organization with a long record of violations of pollution discharge from its chicken processing plant. If the State fails to address the possibility that that chicken processing facility may increase its capacity, and thereby increase the potential for more pollution, then the Town of Monroe and the State will have failed in its duty to promote the General Welfare of all people living downstream of the Village.

I recommend that conditions for this annexation be set, if the annexation must be approved. The conditions would assure that no significant harms are caused to the environment because of unplanned growth and/or willful disregard for the quality of the environment and the General Welfare of those who must put up with pollution from the Village. The State must not allow the Village to rubber stamp its own EIS.

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Subject: Submitting Public Comment on behalf of a colleague -- Re: Kiryas Joel annexation DGEIS
Attachments: Marty Rowland comments KJ annexation DGEIS 6-9-15.pdf

From: Fran Perchick [<mailto:fpenn2@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 3:06 PM
To: tmiller@timmillerassociates.com
Cc: SkoufisJ@assembly.state.ny.us; ceoffice@orangecountygov.com; drmarty@nyc.rr.com
Subject: Submitting Public Comment on behalf of a colleague -- Re: Kiryas Joel annexation DGEIS

Attn: Tim Miller at Tim Miller Associates

Please accept the comments in the attached document from Marty Rowland, adjunct professor at Pace University and environmental engineer. He has asked me to forward his comments for your review in consideration of the Kiryas Joel annexation proposal DGEIS.

Please note that I voiced my own personal comments in opposition to the proposed annexation at the June 10, 2015 public hearing when I spoke before the Kiryas Joel and Town of Monroe officials that evening. I commented on my opposition to both the proposed 507 and 164 acre annexations and provided details pertaining to the the negative environmental implications of annexation and subsequent development of the land, as many of the negative impacts were not fully addressed by the DGEIS. This annexation proposal does NOT benefit the communities surrounding Kiryas Joel, in fact it is HARMFUL to this region, and does not promote the overall public good, but rather is a detriment to overall public good. The annexations must not proceed.

Thank you. Please see Mr. Rowland's comments in his email below (which should appear in blue font) and also attached as a separate PDF.

Sincerely,

Fran Perchick
Resident of the Town of Monroe