

From: Greg Gilligan <greggilligan@optimum.net>
Date: March 5, 2015 at 7:58:38 PM AST
To: tim@timmillerassociates.com
Subject: SEQRA review for proposed annexation

March 5, 2015

Mr. Tim Miller
Tim Miller Associates
10 North Street
Cold Spring, New York 10516 Via email: tim@timmillerassociates.com

Re: Kiryas Joel Annexation Request

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing as a very concerned citizen regarding the SEQRA review concerning the above annexation request. My wife and I have been residents of the Village of Monroe since 1985 and moved here from the Bronx, New York to escape the urban congestion. We fell in love with Monroe and its rural landscape and rolling hills. If this annexation is allowed, this will change forever.

What we have witnessed over the thirty years of living here is a community lead by individuals with absolutely no regard for the environment or the laws designed to protect it. The leadership of Kiryas Joel continuously violates DEC environmental laws and yet that same DEC grants it lead agency status to conduct this review. This is madness!

The Ramapo River, as you are well aware is drinking water for villages and towns in Rockland County as well as residents in northern New Jersey. Studies of the Ramapo River have been showing for quite some time high levels of salinity, turbidity, phosphorous and increased temperature. This is caused by the Harriman sewage treatment plant nearing its capacity and its inability to handle any more effluent.

The Kiryas Joel sewage treatment plant on County Route 105 has been operating without a permit since July 2014. It was recently fined by the DEC (the same NYS agency granting it lead agency status) because a screen that catches raw sewage is broken and untreated raw sewage is making its way into the river. This is RAW SEWAGE and to put it bluntly, the equivalent of drinking water out of a toilet!!

In addition, The Kiryas Joel Poultry plant is continuously violating environmental laws for allowing untreated effluent, unscreened solid waste and raw chicken waste to be dumped into the river. This is DRINKING WATER for our neighbors downstream! Rivers have a carrying capacity that cannot be adjusted or mitigated. The Ramapo River will die because of the disregard that this village's leadership shows to the environment and their neighbors. For this reason alone this annexation must be stopped.

Sincerely,

Gregory R. Gilligan
604 Stage Road
Monroe, NY 10950