

CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR AREA 9 COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library – Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Citizens Concerned for Area 9
Title:	Citizens Concerned for Area 9 Collection
Dates:	1989 – 2005, mostly 1989-1991
Abstract:	Records of Citizens Concerned for Area 9, a citizens group formed to oppose the siting of a low level nuclear waste facility in the towns of Hartford and Fort Ann, in Washington County, New York.
Quantity:	1.5 cubic ft. plus large map tube
Identification:	Archives & Manuscripts: Organizations

HISTORICAL NOTE

Federal law enacted in 1985 required that by 1993 all states either individually or in regional compacts, should take responsibility for the disposal (i.e. the permanent safe storage) of low-level radioactive waste (LLWR) produced within the state.

Between 1986 and 1988 New York State passed various laws and instituted the Siting Commission and an Advisory Committee to select a site and a method for disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste.

Early in 1989 New York State designated 10 “Areas” to be explored as possible locations for the New York State disposal site. Area 9 consisted of the Town of Hartford in Washington County plus that part of the Town of Fort Ann (also Washington County) outside the Blue Line which defined the Adirondack Park. All lands within the Park were deemed ineligible as waste sites.

While people in Hartford were trying to figure out how to respond to this designation, some activists from Argyle and Greenwich booked the school cafeteria and put up a sign for a meeting. The leader of this group was an aggressive woman who announced the name of the advocacy group she was forming to save the residents of Hartford (Washington County Citizens Task Force on the Radioactive Waste Site) and succeeded in alienating everyone who came to the meeting. As a result of this, another meeting was held and she was organized out, and because she claimed the right to the name she had come up with, the name of the organization became “Citizens Concerned for Area 9.”

“The purpose of the group is to oppose the siting of any radioactive waste facility in Washington County, with particular reference to the low level

radioactive was site currently proposed for the Hartford-Ft. Ann area. . .The first activity of the group is to gather and organize information to be [presented to the New York State Low Level Waste Siting Commission. . .which will show the unsuitability of the Hartford-Ft. Ann area for such a proposed facility.” (from CCA9 Statement of Purpose, Feb-Mar 1989).

Co-chairmen of Citizens Concerned were Erica and Jim Burke of Hartford. The Treasurer was Connie Roycewitz Brayman. The following working committees were established to research various issues related to radioactive waste and the campaign to prevent the Area 9 site being chosen:

- Legal Issues (Jerry Ross)
- Medical Issues (Elaine Benincasa)
- Economic Issues (George Stokem)
- Geology (Herman LaGoy)
- Wildlife (Peter Subers)
- Transportation
- Containment Technology (James Burke)
- Emergency Services (Ed Sharrow)
- Liason (Donald Cornell)
- Fundraising (Rosemary Miller)
- Media (Erica Burke).

Over the next six months members of the organization undertook various actions and campaigns, including a letter-writing campaign, a petition drive, a protest-sign campaign, an informational booth at the Washington County Fair, and a large public meeting to be addressed by Dr. Judith Johnsrud of Pennsylvania, a leading anti-nuclear activist and a member of the Pennsylvania State Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee (June 7, 1989). This meeting, which was held in the Fort Ann Central School Gymnasium, was also a major fundraiser, with an auction of donated items, raising over \$1,000.

In September, 1989, the LLRW Siting Commission announced stage two of the siting process would focus on potential sites in Allegheny and Cortland County. Members of CCA9 had a series of meetings focused on what to do next, as we were out of the LLRW fight. There were attempts to merge with Home Town Pride, another local civic organization. For a short time in 1990, while Washington County was organizing its Recycling Program, CCA9 ran a town recycling program. One of the difficulties was that CCA9 had over \$1000 in the bank which had been raised specifically to fight radioactive waste in Hartford and Ft. Ann, and there were members who felt that it would be wrong either to donate the money to a radioactive waste fight elsewhere, or to another local endeavor. There was also the fear that the waste site might come back around and we'd have to start over again.

The money sat in the bank until May of 2005, when a meeting of those interested who had worked in the original fight voted to split the remaining \$1,157.32 between the Hartford Food Pantry and the First Response team at the Hartford Volunteer Fire Company.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

INDEX TERMS

- Topics:** Low-Level Radioactive Waste
Citizens' protest organizations
- Places:** Ft. Ann, Washington, NY
Hartford, Washington, NY
- Important People:** Baransky, Susan – NYS Low-Level Radioactive Waste
Siting Commission
Benincasa, Elaine
Brayman, Connie
Burke, Erica
Burke, James
Cocheo, Jack – Don't Waste New York
Cornell, Donald
Gamboa, Gina – Don't Waste New York
Johnsrud, Judith
LaGoy, Herman
Miller, Rosemary
Patton, Frederick
Sharrow, Ed
Stokem, George
Subers, Peter
- Form/Genre:** Records, government documents, maps

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Preferred Citation:** Citizens Concerned for Area 9 Collection
Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, NY.
- Accession Information:** Donated by Erica Wolfe Burke, 2012
- Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, Joseph
Legault, June 2013

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Box 1 –

Folders:

1. CCA9 - Minutes
2. CCA9 - Meetings 1989-91
3. CCA9 - Statement of Purpose
4. CCA9 - Money
5. CCA9 - Notes misc.
6. CCA9 - Area 9 Site
7. Membership
8. Attendance
9. Groups
10. Committee Lists
11. #1 Legal Committee
12. #2 Medical Committee
13. #3 Economic Committee
14. #4 Geology Committee and Water Well survey
15. #5 Emergency Services Committee
16. #6 Transportation Committee
17. #7 Containment Technology and Construction Committee
18. The Philadelphia Inquirer - Nuclear Waste
19. LLRWS - Radioactive Waste - Clippings
20. LLLRWSC - History Submission (File Copy)
21. HALC - LLRW
22. June 7 Meeting
23. Meeting with Gov. M. Cuomo - E's Notes - May 8, 1989
24. Advisory Committee Meets.
25. Syracuse Meeting

Box 2

Folders:

26. Siting Committee Meetings
27. FAIR (Washington County)
28. Articles on Radioactive Waste
29. Waste Dump - Info. (File Copies)
30. Waste Site - 149 Flyers
31. Letter - Writing Campaign
32. Sign Campaign – includes a binder with pictures of signs
33. Petitions
34. Jack/Judith
35. Lester Allen
36. Kevin Hayes
37. S. Rasher
38. Mary Wordelmann
39. Info. Mary/Peter

- 40. Hist/Arch.
- 41. Fact Sheets from Various Groups
- 42. Don't Waste New York

Box 3

Folders:

- 43. Geologists Report
- 44. Recycling
- 45. Unions
- 46. New York - The Assembly and Siting Commission
- 47. Government Statements
- 48. Correspondence
- 49. Miscellaneous Papers

Documents:

Documents on Radioactive Waste (compiled by Elaine Benincasa) - manilla envelope
New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission Documents - white folder

Low-Level Radioactive Waste - Public Information Program Documents - white folder
The Radioactive Exchange

Weapons Complex Monitor - Waste Management & Clean Up

Developing a New York State Plan for Interim Management of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (rev. 1989)

Recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Interim Management of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (1989) + Letter to James Burke from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Executive Summary - Report on Potential Sites Identification (1989) - (keep this copy)

Proceedings - Symposium on Science and Society: Low Level Radioactive Waste Controversy and Resolution (Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine 1989)

A Glossary of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Terms (1998) - white booklet

Summary of Selected Health Statistics for Countries with Nuclear Facilities (1985) - white booklet

Appendix J - Washington Candidate Area Report on Potential Sites Identification (1989) binder with black rings

Comments of Washington County Board of Supervisors on Candidate Area Identification Report (1989) - binder with black rings

Bank statements

Box 4 – Documents, cont.

Executive summary – Candidate Area Identification Report (December 1988)

New York State Low-Level Radioactive Status Reports 1987, 1993
 New York State Department of Health: Congenital Malformations Registry Annual Report (1983 Birth Cohort)
 NYS Department of Health Cancer Registry: Cancer Incidence by County, Vols I and II
 Disposal Method Screening Report

Box 5 Maps – Large Map tube, stored vertically at end of the room

- 1. Set of Tax maps of the Town of Fort Ann
- 2. Set of Tax Maps of the Town of Hartford created by the Geology Committee to illustrate the Water Well Survey; key to owners
- 3. Set of 3 topographical maps of Hartford and Fort Ann showing historical sites, also prehistoric sites, historic sites and Areas of archeological sensitivity from a map prepared by Dr. Dean Snow, State University of New York at Albany. These maps were prepared by Erica Burke and Frederick K. Patton, President of the Hartford Historical Group.
- 4. Set of Xeroxed topographical maps of Hartford and Fort Ann used by the Geology Committee to show fault lines, wetlands and other geological features (poor condition – re-assembled by Joseph Legault, 2013)

The following documents came in with this collection but were not retained because they duplicate documents in the Folklife Center Government Documents Collection:

- Executive Summary - Source Term Report: Low-Level Radioactive Waste Projections for New York (1989)
- Executive Summary - Disposal Method Screening Report (1989) 2 copies
- Executive Summary - Source Term Report: Low-Level Radioactive Waste Projections for New York (1989) – 2 copies
- DOH Conference on Public Health Considerations for Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal in New York State (1987) - grey booklet
- Environmental Radiation in New York State (1986) - white and green booklet
- New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Status Report for 1992 - white booklet
- New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Status Report for 1990 - white booklet
- 1988 New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Status Report - white booklet
- New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Status Report for 1989 - white booklet
- Environmental Radiation in New York State Volume I (1982-1985) - white booklet
- Environmental Radiation in New York State Volume II (1982-1985) - white booklet
- Candidate Area Identification Report (1988) - binder with black rings
- The Adirondack Park in the Twenty First Century (State of New York, 1990)
- Report on Potential Sites Identification (1989) - binder with black rings
- Appendix A - Allegany Candidate Area Report on Potential Sites Identification (1989) - binder with black rings

- Appendix F - Cortland Candidate Area Report on Potential Sites Identification (1989) - binder with black rings