

STOP THE PROPOSED VILLAGE OF ATHENS CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE HUDSON RIVER

What is the proposed project? Athens Stevedoring and Environmental Development LLC- Athens Terminal has proposed a **Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing facility** at 133 N Washington St, Village of Athens, NY on the **banks of the Hudson River**. The 6.1-acre site would operate 6 days a week from **7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**.

What is Construction & Demolition Waste? It is solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities, structures, and roads; and uncontaminated solid waste resulting from land clearing. Up to 75% of waste in the US comes from demolition projects.

Where would the waste come from? The waste would be imported via barge from **Allocco Recycling** in Brooklyn, NY (NYSDEC Region 2).

Can we be certain that Construction and Demolition waste is uncontaminated? There is **no such thing as “clean fill.”** Soil from NYC often contains oil. Bricks and concrete often contain **lead paint, sheetrock, and other hazardous materials**. The addition of illegal toxins, called **“cocktailing,”** is not uncommon. Cocktailing can occur at any point during the import/export process. **Allocco Recycling will sample** the soil prior to it being loaded on the barge **as opposed to an outside party**. Upon arrival to the Athens-terminal, the **DEC testing of the waste is limited**.

What are the types and amounts of allowable waste streams to be imported each week? Up to **8,400 tons/168,000,000 lbs. of waste** can be imported weekly: **Asphalt/millings, Concrete, and Soil**.

Is the amount of waste within the DEC Registration requirement? No, because the amount exceeds it, the DEC must require a permit for the site instead of a Registration. In turn, a full Environmental Impact Statement will be needed. The threshold for requiring a C&D processing permit is 500 tons/1,000,000 lbs. per day. Three waste streams, each 2,800 tons/5,600,000 lbs. per week, give a cumulative stream of 8,400 tons per week or 1,400 tons/2,800,000 lbs. per day for a 6-day week. Each individual waste stream would be 467 tons/934,000 lbs. per day, under the limit. **But collectively, the 3 streams greatly exceed the limit of 500 tons per day.**

What processing can occur on-site? Crushing and screening of the concrete and other waste are expected.

How will the waste streams be stored at the site? Up to **12,000 tons of waste** may be received, processed, and stored individually, *“as availability and economics allow.”* Three **uncovered, separate waste piles** are proposed. **Aggregate to be exported** by barge could potentially be stored on site.

How will the waste streams be exported from the site after processing? **Export by truck:** Waste is to be hauled to construction sites/possibly landfills in **36 counties in DEC Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7**. A party representing the applicant stated that the waste would only be transported to construction projects in Greene County. **Export by barge:** The DEC application does not detail the exporting of materials from the site by barge. A party representing Stevedoring reported that **aggregate material** would be exported by barge from the Athens terminal.

What are our key environmental and health concerns?

- **“Processing” C&D waste onsite (e.g., crushing and screening) will produce noise and dust that could impact residents’ health, harm the environment, and devastate tourism and**

local businesses. Nature-based waterfront activities like duck hunting, striper fishing, and recreational boating would be compromised. The **Athens Boat Launch**, a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation boat launch site for Greene County, shares its northern boundary with the proposed processing site.

- **Increased barge traffic in the narrow River channel will have detrimental effects on the critically important freshwater tidal wetlands and freshwater tidal creeks, disrupt the use of the adjacent New York State Athens Boat Launch and Village parks,** and the increased turbulence could churn up **dangerous PCBs** resting on the river bed, risking human and environmental health. Selected sensitive freshwater tidal wetlands include Middle Ground Flats and Vosburgh Swamp. The West Flats, a noted, important freshwater tidal creek, is located just north of the Murderer's Kill outlet / Athens Boat Launch.
- **Significant risk of contaminated runoff into the Hudson River.** The site is located in a **flood zone** with a current berm height of four to five feet, which is insufficient to protect against storm surge dispersal of waste.
- The projected trucking of 8,400 tons of waste per week of fully-laden tractor trailers driving the winding, narrow roads and streets puts this historic riverfront village at **dire risk of economic decline.** Athens Lower **Village Historic District (District #80002616) with its numerous significant historic homes and businesses** would be blighted, imperiled by the constant vibrations of truck traffic, and at risk of economic decline. Also, the proposed development is within the **Columbia-Greene North Scenic Area of Statewide Significance.**
- The high volume of truck traffic (and/or trucks' backed up to receive waste) will increase **the risk of traffic accidents.** At best: a 40-ton tractor trailer driving through Athens every 10 minutes. At worst: a 20-ton tractor trailer every five minutes. Aside from the increased risk of traffic accidents, **the fumes from the trucks pose their own discrete health risks for respiratory and heart disease.**
- Airborne particulate matter, "**finest,**" and **odors from the site can irritate eyes, throats, and lungs,** exacerbating respiratory sensitivities particularly for children, the ill, and the elderly.

Given these many potential significant adverse environmental impacts and others, the Applicant's project must be identified as a Type 1 Action under SEQRA. This would require a Positive Declaration and full Environmental Impact Statement at the Applicant's expense. Contact Governor Cuomo and NYSDEC Region 4 staff today!

The Honorable M. Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, [contact form](#), (518).474-8390

Keith Goertz, *Regional Director*; Keith.Goertz@dec.ny.gov

John Weidman, *Environmental Analyst, Materials Management*; John.Weidman@dec.ny.gov

Patrick Connally, *Environmental Analyst, Environmental Permits*; Patrick.Connally@dec.ny.gov

Keep It Greene and Friends of Athens