

# Conservation group blasts NSSD plans for sludge plant in Zion

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ZION — Wednesday's decision by the North Shore Sanitary District to locate its proposed \$26 million sludge drying and melting facility on landfill property on the west edge of Zion instead of Waukegan has drawn flack from the Lake County Conservation Alliance.

Susan Zingle of Wadsworth, the group's executive director, termed the NSSD as "arrogant" in its pursuit of the minergy facility and suggested the agency should dump the project.

Zingle cited the acknowledged emission of mercury and other contaminants into the atmosphere by the project's incinerator as her group's basis for objection. It was the potential effect of these emissions on Lake Michigan that drew strong opposition from

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, when the project was proposed for Waukegan's lakefront.

"NSSD is wasting taxpayer money" in pursuit of the project, Zingle said, adding the sanitary district could recover the cost for the project's equipment that it has already purchased.

"A proper landfill is not a threat to the air or to ground water," she said. "All of the

harmful byproducts are captured. We will learn a lot more about the project when NSSD seeks its air-quality permit."

She expects her group will oppose the project when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency holds its public hearings. A hearing is scheduled Thursday in Libertyville Village Hall.

Zingle estimates the state's approval process could take three to six months.

The proposed NSSD plant would share a 400-acre NSSD sludge landfill, of which 200 acres are slated by the city of Zion for the new Trumpet Technology Park.

Zion originally agreed to purchase the property for \$26.3 million, but Wednesday it was announced the purchase price was being reduced by 30 percent under the

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# NSSD

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terms of an amended agreement between Zion and the sanitary district.

The area is bounded by Route 173 on the south, Russell Road on the north, Green Bay Road on the east and Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the west.

Recently annexed to the city, Zion's proposed Trumpet Technology Park is counted on to provide revenue to replace the amounts lost from ComEd's closing of its lakefront nuclear facility.

Commenting on Zion's acquiescence to the project, Zingle referred to a recently published letter by Mayor Lane Harrison boosting the project's location in Waukegan.

"Who would want to locate a business near a peaker power plant or a sludge incinerator?" Zingle said.