

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

4 D.E.C. Permit Application No.: 5-4144-00187/00001

5 - In the Matter of the Application for an Air

6 State Facility Permit, Pursuant to Title 6 of the

7 Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and

8 Regulations of the State of New York (6NYCRR Part

9 201-5) and a Solid Waste Management Facility

10 Permit, Pursuant to Title 6 of the Official

11 Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the

12 State of New York (6NYCRR Part 360) by Saratoga

13 Biochar Solutions, LLC, Applicant.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

15 DATE: January 7, 2024 at 6:01 p.m.

16 VENUE: WebEx

17 BEFORE: A.L.J. MOLLY MCBRIDE

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20 Reported by Howard Hubbard  
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1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 (The hearing commenced at 6:01 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Ready?

4 THE REPORTER: I am.

5 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Very good. Thank  
6 you. Good evening everyone. We're going to get  
7 started. Good evening and welcome on behalf of the  
8 D.E.C. My name is Molly McBride and I'm an  
9 administrative law judge with the New York State  
10 Department of Environmental Conservation. I work in  
11 the D.E.C.'s Office of Hearings and Mediation  
12 services. I will be presiding over today's public  
13 comment hearing regarding the application of Saratoga  
14 Biochar Solutions L.L.C.

15 The purpose of this legislative public  
16 comment hearing is to have the public provide  
17 comments to the Department about the pending  
18 application. Tonight is not a question and answer  
19 session. In addition to tonight's hearing being held  
20 via Webex, the Department will be holding an in-  
21 person public comment hearing tomorrow evening at six  
22 p.m. at the South Glens Falls High School.

23 The applicant proposes to construct  
24 and operate a new industrial facility to manufacture  
25 a carbon fertilizer product from biosolids and wood

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 waste feedstock. The facility is designed to be  
3 constructed in three phases with each phase  
4 consisting of a process line. This application is  
5 for the construction and operation of phase one or  
6 one process line. This application involves three  
7 D.E.C. permits and Air State facility permit for air  
8 emissions from one process line, a solid waste  
9 management facility permit to accept and process  
10 biosolids in wood waste and a construction stormwater  
11 general permit.

12 The proposal also requires a  
13 beneficial use determination, also known as a BUD for  
14 the fertilizer product. Pursuant to the requirements  
15 of Section 7, subsection 2 and Section 8, subsection  
16 three of the Climate Leadership and Community  
17 Protection Act, also known as the C.L.C.P.A. the  
18 Department has requested and received information  
19 regarding the facilities purported consistency with  
20 the C.L.C.P.A.

21 While the Department is making a  
22 draft Air State facility permit available for public  
23 review and comment, the Department has not made a  
24 tentative or final determination to issue any final  
25 permit for this facility. I'll state again so

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 there's a clear understanding. The Department has not  
3 made a tentative or a final determination to issue  
4 any final permit for this facility.

5 Prior to issuing any final permit for  
6 the facility, the Department would need to, among  
7 other things, ensure that this action is either  
8 consistent with the requirements of the C.L.C.P.A. or  
9 otherwise sufficiently mitigates or is justified.  
10 The Department has yet to make such a determination  
11 regarding the facility's consistency with the  
12 C.L.C.P.A.

13 A notice of complete application,  
14 notice of Legislative public comment hearing and  
15 public comment period was published on January 17th  
16 in the Department's Environmental Notice bulletin.  
17 Notice was also published in the Post Star and the  
18 Times Union. This hearing is to provide an  
19 opportunity for the public to comment on the  
20 application. It is not a question and answer  
21 session. The Department will be accepting, written  
22 and oral comments on the pending application and the  
23 comment period closes on March 4th, 2024. Therefore,  
24 all comments must be sent -- that are sent by email,  
25 must be received by the Department by March 4th, 2024

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 to be considered. Comments submitted by mail must be  
3 postmarked by March 4th, 2024 to be considered. The  
4 address for submission of comments is on the screen  
5 now. And if you have joined us by telephone, I will  
6 re-read both the email address and the mailing  
7 address now.

8 The mailing address for the  
9 submission of written comments is New York State,  
10 D.E.C. Region 5 Office. Address your comments to  
11 Aaron Burns, B-U-R-N-S. It is at 1115 State Route  
12 86, P.O. Box 296 Raybrook, New York, 12977-0296. If  
13 you would like to submit comments by email, the email  
14 address is saratogabiochar2021@dec.ny.gov. Excuse  
15 me. Those addresses are available on the screen and  
16 they're also available on the D.E.C. website. If you  
17 go to the calendar for today's date, you'll have a  
18 link to the information for the mailing addresses.

19 The Department gives equal weight to  
20 oral and written statements. Anyone who wishes to  
21 make a comment today was required to register to make  
22 that comment. We will call registered speakers in the  
23 order in which you registered. When I call your name  
24 to speak, we will unmute your line. If you are  
25 speaking on behalf of a group, please identify the

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 group who you represent here today.

3 If you have joined us by telephone,  
4 when I call your name, please raise your hand so that  
5 we can unmute your line. You will raise your hand by  
6 telephone by pressing star three, and we will know to  
7 unmute your line. I would ask that you please not  
8 raise your hand either through the internet  
9 connection or by pressing star three until it is your  
10 turn to speak and we have asked you to raise your  
11 hand. Again, if you are speaking on behalf of a  
12 group, please identify who it is you are representing  
13 here this evening. If I mispronounce your name, when  
14 I call your name, I apologize, please correct me when  
15 we unmute your line.

16 Because of the number of people who  
17 wish to speak here this evening, we will limit all  
18 comments to three minutes. There will be a timer on  
19 the screen indicating your time for your comments.  
20 If you have not completed your time of three minute -  
21 - your comments, in that three minute time, I will  
22 ask you to please conclude your comments. We strongly  
23 encourage that all lengthy comments be submitted in  
24 writing, and again, I remind you that the Department  
25 gives equal weight to written and oral comments.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2                   When you do make your statement here  
3 this evening, I would ask that you please speak  
4 loudly, slowly and clearly. All comments this  
5 evening are being recorded by court's stenographer.  
6 If we cannot hear your comments clearly, then we will  
7 not have an accurate record. Again, we will have on  
8 the screen this evening the address for the  
9 submission of written comments if you choose not to  
10 make a comment on the record here this evening.

11                   I will now begin calling speakers  
12 and again, we will call the speakers in the order  
13 that we have had their registration filed with the  
14 Department. And our first speaker this evening is  
15 Thomas Masso.

16                   MR. MASSO: Plant-based biochar has  
17 been around for years, burning sewage sludge to  
18 create biochars and other matter altogether. Sewage  
19 sludge smells bad and contains hazardous commodities  
20 such as heavy metals, pathogens, dioxins, medical  
21 waste, and PFAS, otherwise known as forever  
22 chemicals. PFAS are linked to cancer and many other  
23 health-related issues. The folks at Saratoga Biochar  
24 have never built anything like this before. Twice,  
25 the Moreau Planning Board voted to bring in experts

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 to evaluate the feasibility of burning sewage sludge  
3 through paralysis. Due to political pressure, that  
4 review never happened. Without any independent  
5 expert testimony, the planning board approved the  
6 project four to two based entirely on information  
7 submitted by Saratoga Biochar. That information  
8 consists of unproven theories, cherry picked excerpts  
9 from various studies and small sample tests. Those  
10 sample tests provide no results for wastewater  
11 contamination or air emissions. And most critically,  
12 the tests provide no information on sample size.

13 Scalability is a critical concern for  
14 paralysis to eliminate forever chemicals and other  
15 hazardous commodities and sewage sludge. Heat must  
16 be applied evenly through the batch. Saratoga  
17 Biochar plans to burn seven hundred and twenty tons  
18 daily in large batches. To date, no one has been  
19 able to solve this problem. No plant anywhere in the  
20 U.S. is currently burning large batches of sewage  
21 sludge.

22 A company out of Tennessee, Aries  
23 Clean Technologies proposed a series of sewage  
24 burning plants in Taunton, Mass, Newark, and Linden,  
25 New Jersey. Taunton, after consulting with an



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 independent environmental engineering firm decided to  
3 shelve the project. Newark just said no, but Linden  
4 spent sixty one point five million to construct a  
5 biochar facility adjacent to their wastewater  
6 treatment plant. In November, 2021, Aries announced  
7 that Linden was complete and would be fully  
8 operational in the first quarter of 2022.

9 Today, twenty seven months after  
10 Lyndon was completed, it's still not operational and  
11 they don't know when it will be operational. They've  
12 run test badges -- batches, and the results have been  
13 unacceptable. The only difference between Aries and  
14 Saratoga Biochar is that Aries will create biochar  
15 ash that would ship to a nearby cement plant as  
16 filler, allowing it to be sequestered and concrete.  
17 Saratoga Biochar's end product is fertilizer that can  
18 contaminate soil and leach into groundwater.

19 For far too long, our region has been  
20 dumping ground for hazardous chemicals from companies  
21 motivated by greed, without regard for the health and  
22 safety of our community. The National Cancer  
23 Institute has designated our region as a cancer  
24 hotspot. The E.P.A. determined the G.E. Moreau  
25 Superfund site is the most toxic site in upstate New

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 York. I am begging the D.E.C. to deny final approval  
3 to Saratoga Biochar. Anyone who attempts to assure  
4 all of us that burning sewage sludge will eliminate  
5 all harmful chemicals is either misinformed or they  
6 are lying. Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you Mr. Masso.  
8 Our next speaker is Dennis Davall.

9 MR. DAVALL: Hi, I'm -- Hello, I'm  
10 Dennis Davall. I live in South Glen Falls, New York.

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Go on.

12 MR. DAVALL: Okay, bear with me. It's  
13 the first time I've done this. I am opposed to  
14 having the Saratoga Biochar Solutions Experimental  
15 Plant in the Town of Moreau Industrial Park. Let's  
16 backtrack to 1947 when G.E. began discharging an  
17 estimated one point three million pounds of P.C.B.  
18 laden waste into the Hudson River and Hudson Falls  
19 and Fort Edward, New York. As we all know, P.C.B.s  
20 are carcinogens. They do not readily break down once  
21 in the environment and are able to easily cycle  
22 between air, water, and soil.

23 Now, we'll fast forward to November,  
24 2023. A study by the Friends of a Clean Hudson  
25 concluded that the dredging remedy to remove the

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 P.C.B.s chosen by E.P.A. has not achieved the goal  
3 set by the agency in 2002. That pollution has caused  
4 our region to be designated by the National Cancer  
5 Institute, a cancer hotspot, in Hudson Falls and  
6 parts of Glens Falls a disadvantaged community. And  
7 why have I said this? Because the town of Moreau is  
8 currently facing a very similar situation.

9 Saratoga Biochar wants to build an  
10 experimental -- experimental plant in our industrial  
11 park that will import and burn an estimated seven  
12 hundred and twenty tons of sewage sludge daily. All  
13 sewage sludge is contaminated with PFAS., P-F-A-S  
14 forever chemicals, which are carcinogens. It's a  
15 known fact. It will also contain heavy metals. And  
16 according to the E.P.A. at least seven hundred and  
17 twenty six chemicals, research on how to effectively  
18 and safely remove PFAS from our environment is  
19 incomplete and ongoing. And laws governing PFAS need  
20 to be more stringent before plants of this type are  
21 allowed, especially in populated areas. And we are  
22 populated. And to emphasize how serious this problem  
23 is, let me add that Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has  
24 recently announced new P.F.A.F. related legislation  
25 that will make it easier for contaminated victims to

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 sue manufacturers.

3 My start points are, the town of  
4 Moreau Industrial Park is in the Hudson River  
5 Watershed and directly across the Hudson River from  
6 Hudson Falls. It is a New York State designated  
7 Superfund site, PFAS are carcinogens. Sewage Sludge  
8 contains PFAS and heavy metals. The Town of Moreau  
9 is within a New York State designated cancer hotspot.  
10 Our communities have long suffered from P.C.B.  
11 exposure. We do not want to be exposed to PFAS in  
12 our air and water. Please deny -- I'm sorry. I'm  
13 sorry?

14 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Your -- your two --  
15 your three minutes has expired, Mr. Daval, if you  
16 could wrap up?

17 MR. DAVALL: Okay. I am. Please deny  
18 it. If you lived -- if you lived in the town of  
19 Moreau or a disadvantaged community knowing PFAS or  
20 carcinogens are harmful to our environment, what  
21 would you do? Would you want a plant near you?  
22 Thank you.

23 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
24 speaker is Tatiana Bubello. Go ahead. You've been  
25 unmuted.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 MS. BUBELLO: Oh, can you -- you can  
3 hear me?

4 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

5 MS. BUBELLO: Okay. Good evening. My  
6 name is Tatiana. I reside in Moreau as well. I am a  
7 mother, a wife, a nurse, and I have five children,  
8 ages three to twelve. My main concern has been  
9 expressed by the previous speakers with regards to  
10 the level of toxins that we anticipate should this go  
11 through our community, who has already been exposed  
12 to various other toxins in the area.

13 As mentioned, we are a cancer  
14 hotspot. We have Superfund sites all around us, and  
15 we have several schools, residential communities,  
16 apartment complex, senior complex that was just  
17 developed, pretty much across the road of where this  
18 proposed plant is trying to start construction. And  
19 my main concern is the fact that they tote that the  
20 biosolid, let's call it for what it is, sewage sludge  
21 will be treated at a wastewater plant before being  
22 trucked up here. Again, seven hundred and twenty  
23 tons daily to the area to be heated up with wood  
24 chips and whatever other products they need to create  
25 the product they're trying to develop.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 The issue with it is even with the  
3 treatment of these -- the sewage sludge, it actually  
4 -- with the removal of the water, these toxins are  
5 more highly concentrated. So the -- the product  
6 itself is going to be riddled, as many have already  
7 mentioned with these toxins, with these metals with  
8 PFAS. And again, this is going to be admitted into  
9 the air, into the soil, into the waterways, into  
10 communities that have already been slammed very hard.

11 So I implore you to please consider  
12 this, to consider the future of our community and  
13 those that surround including Hudson Falls, Fort  
14 Edward, areas of Glens Falls -- South Glens Falls and  
15 Moreau. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
17 speaker is Miles Gray, and I don't see Mr. Gray on  
18 our list of attendees. So Mr. Gray, if you have  
19 joined us by telephone, I would ask that you please  
20 press star three on your phone so we know which line  
21 is yours so we can unmute you.

22 Miles Gray? I don't see a raised  
23 hand, so I'm going to go on to our next speaker. And  
24 our next speaker is Ann Purdue. Go ahead.

25 MS. PURDUE: Hi -- hi, my name is Ann

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 Purdue. I live in the Town of Moreau. I echo the  
3 concerns of all the prior speakers. I believe that  
4 the D.E.C. needs to withhold approval of the permit  
5 sought by Saratoga Biochar until the safety of this  
6 project is thoroughly substantiated. Currently,  
7 there is no data to support the safety of this  
8 project. It would be the first of its kind in New  
9 York and perhaps anywhere in the U.S.

10 The applicant has conducted a small  
11 scale test of its process. The information provided  
12 fails to delineate the parameters of the test, the  
13 size of the batches tested or the equipment utilized.  
14 Results provided only indicate the PFAS content of  
15 the sewage sludge taken in and the biochar produced  
16 in the test. No information is given on resulting  
17 emissions. This test does not support the claim that  
18 PFAS are destroyed by the applicant's proposed  
19 facility.

20 The applicant cites a number of  
21 studies. None of them relate to full scale  
22 operations or to processes comparable to the  
23 applicant. None have cracked the code on an  
24 effective PFAS destruction. There is no reason to  
25 feel confident in the ability of this applicant to

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 safely operate or maintain a solid waste facility.  
3 Not only will the facility be the first of its kind,  
4 the applicant has no experience in the construction  
5 operation or maintenance of the solid waste  
6 management facility of any kind.

7 In the event of the occurrence of a  
8 catastrophic event such as a fire releasing hazardous  
9 emission for the long-term contamination of our  
10 environment, the applicant offers no meaningful  
11 security or insurance to ensure that it will be  
12 financially responsible for the damage. The  
13 importation of sewage sludge by the applicant  
14 representing fifteen percent of the state's biosolids  
15 presents a grossly disproportionate environmental  
16 burden on this community. There will be that much  
17 more greenhouse gas in particulate matter in our air,  
18 that much more heavy metals, PFAS and other hazardous  
19 substances contaminating the Hudson River and our  
20 soils.

21 This community has already suffered  
22 disproportionate environmental harm from prior  
23 industries. The D.E.C. needs to make greater efforts  
24 to avoid further impacting the nearby disadvantaged  
25 communities. Our region, as others have mentioned,



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 is already known to be a cancer hotspot, a vulnerable  
3 long suffering population experiencing  
4 disproportionately high incidents of cancers and  
5 other illnesses associated with exposure to hazardous  
6 substances. It's simply tragically unfair to make  
7 our community the state's dumping ground.

8 The risk of allowing this project to  
9 proceed without sufficient data is too great. Too  
10 often industry is allowed to introduce toxic  
11 substances into our environment for decades, before  
12 it is determined that those substances are  
13 responsible for unacceptable hazards to -- to the  
14 health and welfare of the community. Once the hazard  
15 is identified, it takes years before regulations are  
16 adopted to address that hazard. Please don't make  
17 this community bear the brunt of another experiment.  
18 Thank you very much.

19 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
20 speaker is William Nicques, and I do not see your  
21 name on the list, Mr. Nicques as an attendee. So if  
22 you have joined us today by telephone, please press  
23 star three on your phone so we know which line to  
24 unmute. William Nicques. If you have joined by  
25 telephone, please press star three on your phone now

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 and we will unmute your phone line. Okay. We'll go  
3 to our next speaker, Doris Cellarius.

4 MS. CELLARIUS: Can you hear me?

5 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Okay. Yes.

6 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. I'm Doris  
7 Cellarius. I'm a toxic activist and chair of the  
8 Sierra Club's Wastewater Committee, which deals with  
9 the dangers of biosolids. I personally oppose today,  
10 you're giving a permit to this Saratoga facility,  
11 because we're threatening not only adjacent community  
12 and the workers who handle the biosolids and the  
13 resulting biochar, but it will threaten the users of  
14 the biochar in the future.

15 The biochar as a substance contains  
16 many toxic contaminants, as you have heard from many  
17 other people. And biochar is known to be mobile in  
18 the environment, going from surface water even into  
19 rivers and oceans. The toxins in the biochar are  
20 mobile and this is a threat you need to consider.  
21 The toxins in the biochar are representative of the  
22 contaminants in the sewage sludge because this  
23 paralysis facility will destroy few of them.  
24 Certainly, that will not destroy the PFAS.

25 And there are no concerns about the

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 toxins in the dust of the biosolids, which can be  
3 inhaled. And we know nothing about, this is even not  
4 being studied, but the studies are being proposed. I  
5 have reviewed several scientific papers from 2021,  
6 '22, and '23 and we'll submit written comments by  
7 March 4th. Thank you for the opportunity.

8 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you very much.  
9 Our next -- next speaker is Kathleen Draper. Go  
10 ahead. You've been unmuted.

11 MS. DRAPER: Hello. Can you hear me?

12 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

13 MS. DRAPER: Sorry. My name is  
14 Kathleen Draper. I've been involved in the biochar  
15 industry for over a dozen years. I'm the U.S.  
16 Director for the Ithaca Institute for Carbon  
17 Intelligence and I've been focused on using biochar  
18 and climate farming, agroforestry and other  
19 industrial uses. I am the Board Chair Emeritus of  
20 the International Board Biochar Initiative and a  
21 board member of the U.S. Biochar Initiative. I've  
22 written and taught about a wide variety of biochar  
23 topics, including the use of pyrolysis to carbonize  
24 sewage sludge, and we wrote about it in a book I co-  
25 authored called, "Burn: Using Fire to Cool the

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 Earth".

3 As a longtime advocate of carbonizing  
4 underutilized organic material, I am in support of  
5 the Saratoga Biochar project you are reviewing. I'm  
6 aware that Saratoga Biochar will convert Biosolids  
7 from wastewater treatment plants in a slow-release  
8 biochar-based fertilizer. The pyrolysis of biomass  
9 feedstocks prevents roughly half of the carbon  
10 dioxide absorbed by plants from returning to the  
11 atmosphere. Also, when this is used as a fertilizer  
12 or a soil amendment, it not only allows for  
13 recarbonizing agricultural soils, but it reduces the  
14 amount of chemical fertilizer that's needed and can  
15 reduce the amount of nitrous oxide emitted from  
16 sludge application, thereby further reducing  
17 greenhouse gas emissions. All of the climate  
18 benefits -- all of these climate benefits support the  
19 key goals of the New York State Climate Leadership  
20 and Community Protection Plan.

21 The Saratoga Biochar Project also  
22 offers a unique benefit in PFAS mitigation. Bio  
23 solids are currently and frequently applied to crop  
24 land as a fertilizer, and although they are  
25 pretreated often to neutralize pathogens, their PFAS

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 content is not removed. These forever chemicals have  
3 been shown to bio-accumulate in soils, plants and  
4 animals, and the human food chain, which may lead to  
5 adverse health effects.

6 Saratoga Biochar offers great  
7 potential to safely reduce crop land contamination by  
8 PFAS and other biosolids, and their undesirable  
9 contamination as pyrolysis operates at very high  
10 temperatures and destroys such compounds in the  
11 biosolids being pyrolised, or separates them into  
12 more vulnerable gaseous state where they're readily  
13 destroyed by much higher temperature, thermal  
14 oxidation.

15 Recently tests have found biosolid  
16 PFAS content is destroyed during the pyrolysis  
17 process. Moreover, biosolids that are applied to  
18 crop land are capable of being absorbed by plants,  
19 allowing their PFAS content to be accumulated in  
20 crops. I've also written -- sent in a written letter  
21 stating much of what I've just said orally. Thank  
22 you.

23 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
24 speaker is Jorge Padron. Go ahead, you've been  
25 unmuted.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 MR. PADRON: Give me one second. I'm  
3 going to read my statement.

4 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Okay.

5 MR PADRON: Your Honor, my name is  
6 Jorge Padron. I live at 19 Sisson Road in the Town  
7 of Moreau. I'd like to share some facts with you  
8 tonight relative to the applicant Saratoga Biochar  
9 Solutions and their application for an air permit as  
10 well as the draft permit.

11 A father of four children, I moved to  
12 Moreau November of 2021. I was dismayed and angered  
13 that our planning board approved this project knowing  
14 how Moreau has been impacted negatively, the history  
15 of pollution impacts on human health, cancer rates,  
16 long-lasting impacts that have -- have been openly  
17 talked about, discussed, felt, seen, where a well-  
18 known Superfund site and all this in our town. How  
19 ironic that this project would land here. My home,  
20 the physical structure is identified on the site plan  
21 document filed by the applicant with the Town of  
22 Moreau Planning Board as their closest neighbor.  
23 Nine hundred and sixty-five point three one feet to  
24 be exact. You can imagine my surprise and horror  
25 when I found out. Please note that this was left out

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 of their application to the D.E.C.

3                   Clearly, I am in a very dangerous  
4 spot. If you look at the thirty-seven maps in their  
5 application I sit right in the red zones. My family  
6 and some neighbors would be immediately impacted, a  
7 fact that confirmed yesterday by one of the experts  
8 at the community meeting sponsored by the Clear and  
9 Air Action Network and (unintelligible) Moreau two  
10 groups I'm a member of and who have officially  
11 opposed the building of this facility in the Town of  
12 Moreau. I too oppose the building of this facility.  
13 The maps depict stack emissions data dispersion of a  
14 slew of heavy metals, P.F.O.A. and other contaminants  
15 known to harm human health and disrupt quality of  
16 life with odors and other -- and other impacts.

17                   These maps and data were not shared  
18 with the Town of Moreau Planning Board. In addition  
19 to the technical odor and air pollution mitigation  
20 methods the applicant discussed in his application,  
21 Saratoga Biochar Solutions authorized a good neighbor  
22 policy as part of their application to the Town of  
23 Moreau Planning Board, that good neighbor policy is  
24 left out of this application.

25                   I call attention to another permit

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 that included important provisions from -- for some  
3 level of accountability at the D.E.C. level. I will  
4 share that in a written comment directly, but to note  
5 C.R.R-N.Y. 201-110 at 211.2, 211.1. At a minimum the  
6 applicant should be forced to implement an order  
7 monitoring system meeting specific criteria, and they  
8 should make available public access to those -- to  
9 those records.

10 I'll say again that I'm opposed to  
11 the project, the nasty history with pollution and  
12 polluters adverse health effects impact to human  
13 health. I implore you to not issue the permit for  
14 this project, and I'll also be submitting more  
15 comments before the deadline. Thank you for your  
16 time.

17 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you very much.  
18 Our next speaker is Timothy Powhida. Go ahead.  
19 You've been unmuted.

20 MR. POWHIDA: Can you hear me?

21 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes, we can hear you.

22 MR. POWHIDA: Great. Thank you. My  
23 name is Timothy Powhida. I am a Moreau resident  
24 raising my kids in the Town of Moreau. I also teach  
25 just down the road at the Moreau Elementary School.



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 This project is extremely concerning to me because  
3 for the past forty-six years growing up a stone's  
4 throw from the G.E. Corporation in the Town of Fort  
5 Edward, I saw firsthand how an environmental  
6 contaminant destroyed land and water for an entire  
7 community and surrounding communities. I was not  
8 allowed to play in the dirt. I was not allowed to  
9 swim in the water of the Hudson.

10 Now, fast forward forty years and we  
11 are fighting against the new pollution distribution  
12 map. We are looking at -- we are looking to replace  
13 P.C.B.s with P.F.A.S already being one of the largest  
14 Superfund sites in the Upstate New York. I don't  
15 think we can play roulette with a company that thinks  
16 they can destroy the P.F.A.S. with a pyrolysis  
17 process. We cannot play guinea pig to a company that  
18 cannot prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, that they  
19 cannot create a safe product with zero long-term  
20 effects on our community and surrounding areas.

21 I urge the Department of  
22 Environmental Conservation to deny this application  
23 until such a time Saratoga Biochar can provide a  
24 proven system. Proven system, meaning they're  
25 destroying any detrimental environmental pollutant

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 that could enter our community.

3                   However, even if that happens, we  
4 still have the problem of importing the -- the  
5 importation of tons of biosolids daily to the Town of  
6 Moreau through surrounding communities. You cannot  
7 overlook -- through -- through the -- into the Town  
8 of Moreau. You cannot overlook the effect that  
9 P.F.A.S. could have on a community -- on community  
10 soil. It continues to grow as a problem year after  
11 year, the more it's used.

12                   Water runoff from the Moreau  
13 Industrial Park accesses the Hudson River through a  
14 ravine directly west of the build site. So I urge  
15 the -- the -- de -- the -- the Department of Environ  
16 -- Environmental Conservation to seriously consider  
17 denying this application at this time until such time  
18 that Saratoga Biochar can prove beyond a shadow of a  
19 doubt that they can -- they're going to take care of  
20 the community that they're a part of. I think that  
21 the -- the comments we're going to hear tonight show  
22 an overwhelming solidarity that the community  
23 members, they don't want this here. Okay. And it  
24 doesn't -- it doesn't prove a benefit for us at this  
25 time. Thank you.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
3 speaker is Brian Branzino. If you have joined us by  
4 telephone, would you please press star three on your  
5 phone now so that we know which line to unmute?  
6 Brian Branzino. Please press star three on your  
7 phone if you have joined us by telephone.

8 Okay, we're going to move on  
9 to our next speaker -- oh, go ahead.

10 MR. BRANZINO: Hello.

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes, you have two --  
12 you have two sources of audio, so you need to mute  
13 one.

14 MR. BRANZINO: All right, I'm getting  
15 an echo. I'm sorry.

16 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: All right, we're  
17 going to mute your line and we'll call you back in a  
18 minute. If you could try to turn off your audio on  
19 your end. We're going to go on to our next speaker  
20 and then we'll come back to Brian in a minute. Our  
21 next speaker is Tom Joslin. Mr. Joslin, go ahead.  
22 Yeah.

23 MR. JOSLIN: I wish to express -- I  
24 wish to express my support for this project. I have  
25 no financial interest in the project and no personal

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 connections, but I'm an environmental engineer with  
3 forty plus years experience in the field of  
4 wastewater treatment, including residuals such as  
5 (unintelligible) management.

6 In 2014, I retired from the Vermont  
7 Department of Environmental Conservation. During my  
8 state service, I guided municipal wastewater projects  
9 through planning and design, including permitting and  
10 funding. From 1986 to '91, I was a residuals  
11 regulator within Vermont D.E.C. During that time, I  
12 logged in lab reports and watched metals  
13 concentrations decline through the years.

14 I believe that the current project  
15 will address multiple issues in residuals management  
16 and climate mitigation, including destruction of  
17 pathogens and trace organic contaminants, including  
18 PFAS as demonstrated by research and long-term carbon  
19 sequestration needed for climate mitigation.

20 The current practice of land filling,  
21 most biosolids needs to end. it is environmentally  
22 unsustainable. This project is an important step  
23 toward diverting biosolids from landfills. I like  
24 that the project developers are proposing to phase  
25 the project and have paid close attention to odor

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 control. Saratoga Biochar is required to monitor  
3 metals concentrations, and must meet federal and  
4 state metal concentration limits. Project includes  
5 multiple features to prevent metal concentration  
6 spikes.

7 I am hoping that this project will  
8 inspire other entities in the Northeast who adopt  
9 biochar technology. And that's my -- from my written  
10 statement to New York D.E.C. I'd also like to add  
11 pyrolysis is not combustion, it is not burning. It  
12 is a high temperature process in low oxygen. Thank  
13 you.

14 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: So before we unmute  
15 Mr. Branzino, again, Mr. Branzino, you may be logged  
16 in both on your telephone and on your computer. So  
17 if you are logged in two ways, I would ask that you  
18 please mute one of those lines so that we can call  
19 you again. And we're going to unmute your line now,  
20 Mr. Branzino, we'll see if you fix that problem.  
21 Let's unmute him.

22 MR. ITZO: Hello?

23 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes, who's speaking?

24 MR. ITZO: Hi this is Paul Itzo from  
25 Moreau, New York. Am I on?

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Oh, Okay. Could you  
3 spell your name for us please?

4 MR. ITZO: It's P-A-U-L, I-T-Z-O.

5 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Okay, go ahead.

6 MR. ITZO: Okay. It's my prepared  
7 speech. When is it not enough? Because of a large  
8 amount of toxins that still remain in our Hudson  
9 Falls River, the E.P.A. calls -- Okay. Can you hear  
10 me?

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

12 MR. ITZO: The E.P.A. calls this body  
13 of water the largest Superfund site in the United  
14 States. Of the eighty-one incinerators still  
15 operating in the United States, the Hudson Falls  
16 Wheeler Bureau Incinerator is ranked as our country's  
17 worst air polluter by the E.P.A. not number two,  
18 number one. I live in the Town of Moreau. For the  
19 past forty years, we have been cleaning up G.E toxins  
20 in our soil and groundwater. Areas in Moreau  
21 continue to be recognized by the E.P.A. at Superfund  
22 sites. Repeated testing must be held because these  
23 forever chemicals continue to leach into our well  
24 water.

25 Incredibly, Moreau is the town that

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 Saratoga Biochar plans to build their sewage burn  
3 plant. A town with an existing E.P.A. Superfund  
4 site. When do we say enough is enough? Why do the  
5 polluters always set up shop in our area? Never  
6 Scarsdale, Long Island or even Saratoga. Heck,  
7 they're called Saratoga Biochar, why not there?  
8 Could our local political leaders have anything to do  
9 with where these profit polluters set up shop? Does  
10 the federally funded E.P.A.'s promise to protect  
11 Moreau and the Hudson River, carry any weight, when  
12 our New York State D.E.C. considers approving  
13 Saratoga Biochar. Does the New York State D.E.C.'s  
14 environmentally disadvantaged community designation  
15 in our villages of Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, and  
16 Fort Edward, amount to nothing more than happy talk.

17 Our residents here were under the  
18 impression that our towns were to be protected from  
19 future polluters coming into our area. Yet here we  
20 are considering Saratoga Biochar application.

21 Now let's talk about Saratoga Biochar.  
22 Saratoga Biochar is a profit seeking firm that  
23 promotes unproven exaggerated claims. A firm that  
24 tells our D.E.C. that their pyrolysis and air  
25 filtration system completely destroys toxic P --

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 P.F.A.S. air emission, from the sewage that they'll  
3 be burning. Yet they refuse to share their own test  
4 results with the D.E.C. What? Will the D.E.C. allow  
5 Saratoga Biochar to (unintelligible) claim that their  
6 test results are confidential because of a secret  
7 proprietary process? Really? That's good enough for  
8 our D.E.C.?

9 Saratoga Biochar unsupported claims  
10 are not shared by any peer reviewed study that  
11 attempts to use pyrolysis and air filtration to  
12 destroy forever P.F.A.S. toxins. Toxins -- toxic  
13 particulates said that we will be breathing. Toxins  
14 that cause cancer. Has our New York State D.E.C.  
15 done their own research on Saratoga Biochar's false  
16 alarm. The Environmental Protection Agency has.  
17 Their study on the use of paralysis and air  
18 filtration to destroy toxic P.F.A.S. emissions from  
19 biosolids, reject Saratoga Biochar's exaggerated --  
20 exaggerated claims. The E.P.A. study found that at  
21 this point in time, their findings determine that the  
22 pyrolysis air filtration process does not destroy  
23 P.F.A.S. emissions, and toxic metals in biosolids.  
24 Whom are we to believe, Saratoga Biochar or the  
25 E.P.A.? All Saratoga Biochar needs to do is show us



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 their study. Can they really destroy these toxins?  
3 Knowing this --

4 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Mr. Itzo -

5 MR. ITZO: -- the large amount --

6 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Excuse me. Mr. Itzo,  
7 your time has expired. If you could complete your  
8 comments, please.

9 MR. ITZO: Okay. Okay. Shitty --  
10 shady politicians allow the wheelbarrow and G.E. --  
11 G.E. to destroy the air and water and the village  
12 that we live. Our cancer rates continue to be well  
13 above the national average. We need to remove our  
14 local polluters, not allow a new one to further  
15 damage our quality of life. Will the D.E.C. do the  
16 right thing? Please do the right thing. Thank you.

17 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: I'm going to recall  
18 Brian Branzino. Please don't raise your hand unless  
19 I call your name. So if we have Brian Branzino in  
20 attendance by phone, please press star three on your  
21 phone so we can unmute your line.

22 Okay. Don't see a raised hand, so we  
23 will go on to our next speaker who is, David Walker.  
24 Go ahead. Mr. Walker.

25 MR. WALKER: Hello?

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Go right ahead.

3 MR. WALKER: I'm Dave Walker. I'm the  
4 Higgins Professor Emeritus of Earth and Environmental  
5 Sciences at Columbia. Two years ago, I reviewed this  
6 project and I'd like to bring that review up to date.  
7 Two years ago, the company made an excellent  
8 presentation of their visit -- of their vision for  
9 odor suppression docks and SOX controls. However,  
10 there were unresolved concerns over other toxicities.  
11 These concerns, of course, included PFAS and toxics  
12 metals. The specific concern for the heavy metals,  
13 were that the remediation technologies, if they were  
14 applied at all, were only incremental rather than  
15 transformational. Typically, the metals in the  
16 biochar might be reduced by a factor of something  
17 like a half, but it really got to below ten percent  
18 of the starting values in the sludge.

19 Using such material as an agricultural  
20 soil amendment is definitely problematic. Because  
21 the metals accumulate in renewed applications.  
22 Nothing has really changed in that picture for the  
23 last two years. The concern for the ubiquitous PFAS  
24 contaminants in the biosolids was what happened to  
25 them during pyrolysis. At the time, two years ago,

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 there wasn't any comprehensive fluorine budget that  
3 would enable anyone to track the demise of the PFAS  
4 if in fact they were being destroyed or whether they  
5 were just being transformed into something else.  
6 This deficiency is still the case, but some aspects  
7 of PFAS behavior during pyrolysis have become clear  
8 in the last two years.

9           It's clear to say that eight hundred  
10 to a thousand degrees is a better temperature in  
11 which to make sure that the PFAS totally disappear  
12 from the sludge. Some of the PFAS wind up in the  
13 biochar at a small percentage of the starting amount,  
14 but the shorter chain P.F.A.S.'s and other  
15 degradation products like related telomere alcohols  
16 and alkanes wind up in the condensable liquids, where  
17 they might join the char. Fluoro telomere aren't  
18 usually analyzed for, but when they are, they're  
19 found. And so the total fluorine budget still  
20 remains to be done in order to track any and identify  
21 residual toxicity.

22           Given these unresolved and  
23 potentially devastating issues, it's not surprising  
24 that the use of sewage sludge derived biochar as an  
25 agricultural soil amendment is banned in companies

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 like the U.K. New York should also ban that sort of  
3 use.

4 Saratoga Biochar shouldn't be used for  
5 agricultural soil amendment because the toxicity  
6 issues simply have not been resolved. There are  
7 alternatives to fertilizer production. I would like  
8 to urge you to keep the toxins out of the food chain.  
9 They shouldn't be used for agricultural emission --  
10 soil emendations. Keep it safe, please. Thank you.

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank You. Our next  
12 speaker is James Ralston. Go ahead.

13 MR. RALSTON: My -- my name's James  
14 Ralston. My remarks come after a thirty-two-year  
15 career with D.E.C.'s Division of Air Resources. When  
16 I came to my job in 1974, I was the newest and  
17 youngest of the environmental engineers in Region 5,  
18 the Warrensburg Office. As a result, I drew the  
19 short straw on many of the most plentiful sources of  
20 citizen complaints. These sources very often were  
21 malodors.

22 One of my several concerns about the  
23 Saratoga Biochar Solutions operation, is that the  
24 seventy tons per day of sewage sludge, commingled  
25 with wood chips will stink. It will smell of human

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 excrement, on area roads due to inevitable leaks. It  
3 will smell during transfer of this material at this  
4 facility, despite efforts to capture and treat those  
5 odors.

6                   Seventy tons per day is a hundred and  
7 forty thousand pounds per day. If only a tenth to  
8 one percent of these daily loads leaks out in  
9 transit, that's a hundred and forty pounds of sewage  
10 sludge on area roads. Also, how effective can we  
11 expect these loads to be sealed to prevent fugitive  
12 odor emissions? Not much is as potent as the smell  
13 of animal excrement, whether or not digested it to  
14 sewage sludge.

15                   Expecting this biochar product to be  
16 used broadly as a fertilizer should be checked with  
17 area markets first. I think it disingenuous for  
18 D.E.C solid waste management to approve a beneficial  
19 use determination, with merely a conditional  
20 statement, recognizing (unintelligible) in markets  
21 role in approving fertilizers. Why not require the  
22 prior -- prior approval of that agency before  
23 granting a beneficial use determination from D.E.C.?

24                   As an air pollutant cadmium and the  
25 possibility of other heavy metals being evolved from

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 this process, before they're pyrolyzed by thermal  
3 oxidizer is a concern. (unintelligible) Hercules  
4 chemical inorganic pigment plant, pretreated their  
5 industrial wastewater before sending along to the  
6 domestic wastewater plant serving Glen's Falls.  
7 Other industries that are similar constituents of the  
8 seventy tons per day may well contribute heavy  
9 metals.

10 It's very odorous effluent and  
11 downstream wastewater from the Johnstown  
12 (unintelligible) soil area, certainly smelled a high  
13 heavy. I caution against resuming the sewage sludge  
14 is strictly from domestic excrement. It should be  
15 effectively tested for other heavy metals. Thank  
16 you.

17 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
18 speaker is Yayoi Koizumi. Go ahead. You've been  
19 unmuted.

20 MS. KOIZUMI: Me?

21 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

22 MS. KOIZUMI: Okay, great. Thank you.  
23 Good evening. My name is Yayoi, the founder of Zero  
24 Waste Ithaca, from Ithaca, New York. I appreciate  
25 opportunity to address the D.E.C. today. I am a

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 transplant. Growing up in the nineties, seventies  
3 and eighties Japan, toxic impact of industrial  
4 pollution during rapid development, such as infamous  
5 Minamata disease, was a priority topic in primary and  
6 secondary education in Japan. My journey to become  
7 an environmentalist started with a Dummies book  
8 series I found on how to become one, when I was  
9 nineteen years old.

10 Today, I speak not as a career  
11 environmentalist I fantasized about in my youth, but  
12 as a grassroots organizer dedicated to zero waste.  
13 We just heard from a representative from Cornell  
14 University, from my area at the -- during this  
15 hearing, endorsing the proposed biochar plant. Using  
16 technical language that might contribute to the  
17 misconception of sewage sludge derived biochar as a  
18 climate solution.

19 The proposed Saratoga Biochar  
20 projects represents not just a threat to our  
21 environment, but also betrayal of the trust we place  
22 in the organizations like the D.E.C. This isn't  
23 about the potential hazard. This isn't just about  
24 the potential hazard of sewage sludge and PFAS. It's  
25 about the fundamental principle of justice and

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 accountability. I urge the D.E.C. to stay true to  
3 its mission. The proposed Saratoga Biochar plant  
4 raises serious concerns from the company's  
5 questionable track record to the environmental  
6 hazards associated with turning sewage sludge into  
7 biochar. Expert testimonies by (unintelligible) PhD  
8 and others, have already highlighted the presence of  
9 PFAS and other toxic chemicals.

10 I implore the D.E.C. to live up to  
11 the agency I admired as a young person. D.E.C.'s  
12 ten-year solid waste management plan, promoting more  
13 incineration of toxic trash and in particular sewage  
14 sludge and land application of that, in impoverished  
15 rural communities is an environmental justice issue.  
16 We need the D.E.C. to be a beacon kind of  
17 responsibility, not the facilitator of harm. This  
18 also pertains to the plan support for land spreading  
19 of the sewage sludge.

20 Already -- the practice that was  
21 already banned in Maine and Washington. The European  
22 Union has also banned biochar plans made from sewage  
23 sludge. I call on the D.E.C. to reconsider  
24 supporting Saratoga Biochar. Let us not compromise  
25 the wellbeing of our communities and the environment.



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 I hope the D.E.C. can be the guardian of a shared  
3 future that I envisioned as a young environmentalist.  
4 Thank you for your time and consideration.

5 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
6 speaker is Diana Anodai, and I don't see you on a  
7 list of attendees, so if you could raise your hand if  
8 you've joined us by phone by pressing star three.  
9 Diana Anodai, if you've joined us by phone, please  
10 press star three on your phone so we can unmute your  
11 line. Diana Anodai.

12 Okay. I am going to go on to our next  
13 speaker, Anthony Kravitsky. Anthony, if you have  
14 joined us today by phone, please press star three.

15 I see that we have a raised hand for  
16 Diana F. If we could unmute that line please. Go  
17 ahead.

18 MS. FOCKER: Thank you very much. My  
19 name is Diana Focker Abodi. I hold a Master's of  
20 Science in Public Health. I've worked mainly in  
21 academic medicine and clinical pharmaceutical  
22 research. Today, I'm speaking as a citizen  
23 scientist.

24 In 2022, we learned that Maine banned  
25 the use of sewage sludge on farms to reduce the risk

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 of PFAS poisoning. That sludge used as crop  
3 fertilizer had contaminated soil, water, crops, and  
4 cattle. Farmers had to stop farming. And actually,  
5 in 2023, I was in Maine and I stopped at a farm that  
6 I used to stop at, for a farm stand, and they no  
7 longer had produce because of PFAS contaminations.  
8 But these standards were set after cow's milk had  
9 spread from sludge. And the levels of P.F.A.S. were  
10 basically so high -- high that the cows had to be  
11 killed. And the farmers also had very high levels of  
12 PFAS in their blood.

13 I grew up a farm in Mississippi, and I  
14 just found out recently that my hometown has a  
15 biochar plant. And I moved to New York, I love New  
16 York, and I'm just saying here, please, you know, I  
17 really don't want you to have a biochar plant. But,  
18 you know, the Sierra Club's Atlantics Chapter report  
19 was -- was really excellent and -- and very well  
20 written. And I thank the authors, including Tracy on  
21 that.

22 But I was so surprised to read that -  
23 - that New York State fields, you know contain so  
24 much toxins basically from PFAS. At least that's,  
25 you know, one of the things that they highlighted in

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 the report. I'm not going to go into all the  
3 diseases caused by PFAS, but being in public health,  
4 you know, you're surprised and saddened to learn that  
5 the effectiveness of immunizations can be deterred as  
6 a result of PFAS. And we know that the longer chains  
7 of the PFAS can take years to break down in blood and  
8 decades to break down in an environment, so they're  
9 there to stay.

10 Also, PFAS are everywhere now. You  
11 know, we don't just have to think of the PFAS that  
12 may be stemming from this biochar plant, if it's --  
13 if it's built or approved, we have to think that  
14 they're everywhere. They're in the Auric circle  
15 there increases greater than ten parts per trillion  
16 in portable water. And so we need to be careful and  
17 think of the cumulative effects of PFAS. Now I just  
18 want to -

19 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: And if you could  
20 conclude your remarks, your three minutes is up.

21 MS. FOCKER: Yeah, I will. I just  
22 want to say that heavy metals like cadmium and lead  
23 are also worrisome. And that in summary, I ask the  
24 D.E.C. to deny the permits for this experimental  
25 biochar community because it could be akin to having

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 residents participating in an experimental clinical  
3 trial. Thank you very much.

4 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
5 speaker is Matthew Valancius. Go ahead, sir.

6 MR. VALANCIUS: Thank you. I'm Matt  
7 Valancius. I am the -- an engineer, and I'm the  
8 Director of Sales and Marketing at Process Combustion  
9 Corporation or P.C.C. P.C.C. provided a thermal  
10 oxidizer proposal to Northeastern Biochar Solutions  
11 through an engineering firm, Howell Patterson Thermal  
12 Processing for the Saratoga Biochar Solutions Project  
13 in New York. And we have been directly involved in  
14 supporting the development and above the permit  
15 application documents. P.C.C. has been supplying  
16 custom design, fully integrated pollution control  
17 systems worldwide for over four -- fifty-four years  
18 for a wide range of industrial applications. We're  
19 headquartered in Pittsburgh P.A. and have offices in  
20 the U.K. China, and India. The specified emission  
21 limits were provided by the New York State Department  
22 of Environmental Conservation, to Saratoga Bio -  
23 Biochar, the applicant.

24 P.C.C.'s proposal included one multi-  
25 stage loan ox, thermal oxidizer system that destroys

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 the contaminants in the pyrolysis gas to achieve the  
3 specified emission limits for a single carbon  
4 fertilizer production line. We anticipate supplying  
5 additional units as Saratoga Biochar expands the  
6 facility with additional carbon fertilizer production  
7 lines.

8 Now essentially, a thermal oxidizer  
9 is utilized to destroy liquid and gaseous waste  
10 streams from an upstream process. Very high  
11 destruction levels are achieved by a combination of  
12 operation at high -- high temperature, good mixing of  
13 the products of combustion and the waste gases and a  
14 large enough chamber at the high temperatures to  
15 allow the combustion reactions and mixing to occur  
16 are what we refer to as residence time.

17 Now, specifically, P.C.C. calculated  
18 the disruption removal efficiency or D.R.E. of the  
19 PFAS compounds, which includes the P.F.O.A. and the  
20 P.F.O.S. which is the amount of basically the  
21 compounds destroyed in the thermal oxidizer, which  
22 doesn't go off the stack at greater than ninety-nine-  
23 point nine percent. Now, the thermal oxidizer can  
24 achieve these high D.R.E. levels through good mixing,  
25 which we achieve through a -- an industrial burner

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 and higher design velocities, a multi-stage design to  
3 stage temperatures and air fuel ratio zones. And  
4 then also a -- a high enough residence times, this is  
5 basically a large enough chamber for those reactions  
6 to take place and operating temperatures up to  
7 twenty-three hundred degrees Fahrenheit to achieve  
8 destruction requirements.

9 Now, regarding P -- PFAS emissions,  
10 the first section of the thermal oxidizer includes a  
11 very high temperature reducing zone, which breaks the  
12 carbon bonds. As the gasses exit the first zone, the  
13 result in compound is no longer P.F.A.S as it enters  
14 the second cell. The gases are further treated in  
15 the remainder of the thermal oxidizer.

16 Now the -- the Northeastern Biochar  
17 Solutions also incorporates wet scrubber technology  
18 downstream of the P.C.C. thermal oxidizer for removal  
19 of particulates, SO<sub>2</sub>, HFNH and the -- and other odor  
20 compounds. And thank you for the opportunity to  
21 speak briefly about thermal oxidizer technology.

22 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
23 speaker is Lisa Adamson. Go ahead.

24 MS. ADAMSON: My name is Lisa Adamson.  
25 I'm from Lake George and as a neighboring Queensbury

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 resident, I'm concerned about my neighbor's health  
3 burdens and also the potential pollution that could  
4 reach even further than the greater Glens Falls area.  
5 And as an active advocate for policies and bills, to  
6 implement the New York State Climate Law, the  
7 C.L.C.P.A. which has mandated environmental justice  
8 protection as part of its law, I register strong  
9 objection to the threat of dangerous resulting  
10 pollution from the D.E.C. approval of the Saratoga  
11 Biochar Project.

12 The recent landslide Moreau  
13 elections, shows that in the court of public opinion,  
14 a positive declaration, meaning a resounding  
15 rejection of this project has been made. People  
16 understand that an industry that would import and  
17 burn a disproportionate percentage of New York  
18 State's human waste, that would emit pollutants into  
19 the air and risk our groundwater being contaminated,  
20 also producing a fertilizer product for sale that  
21 would introduce forever chemical pollutants into our  
22 gardens and farmlands, is not only reckless and  
23 unproven, but unfair.

24 It's part of a dysfunctional national  
25 pattern where industry, whose primary motivation is

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 personal and profit cites itself, perhaps in a  
3 predatory way near disadvantaged communities.  
4 Residents in our extended area have already suffered  
5 health impacts from area industry and accidents. So  
6 that a D.C. -- D.E.C. approval at this point, would  
7 signal our residents as expendable.

8 D.E.C. should bear in mind and learn  
9 lessons from such examples of chemical and industrial  
10 pollution in our state, from Love Canal to Husick  
11 Falls and our own recent Queensbury Jenkins P.F.A.  
12 pollution case. It should seriously ask itself why  
13 no sewage sludge biochar projects operate in New York  
14 and around the country. To date, there appears to be  
15 only one -- one biochar plant in operation.

16 The D.E.C. is stated that it wants to  
17 align itself with the intent of the C.L.C.P.A. which  
18 includes strong environmental justice legislation and  
19 protection, to reduce climate related impact  
20 pollution. It needs to reject license -- licensing  
21 of this application and to honor the intent of  
22 Article 1 Section 19 of the New York State's  
23 Constitution Green Amendment, which guarantees New  
24 York State residents and all the next generations to  
25 our right to clean air, water, and environment.



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Pretty much. I'm  
4 going to call Miles Gray. Go ahead.

5 MR. GRAY: Miles Gray. I'm the  
6 Program Director at the United States Biochar  
7 Initiative. I'm also a professional engineer and  
8 have spent something like ten years in the water  
9 resources engineering fields including contaminated  
10 sites work. I want to express my support for this  
11 project. In general the process of converting  
12 biosolids into biochar is a climate solution, and it  
13 also is a pathway to eliminate forever chemicals from  
14 agricultural systems. So compared to the existing  
15 disposal pathways for biosolids, biochar is a clear  
16 step in the right direction.

17 Many biosolids are no longer land  
18 applied because of PFAS concerns. So those biosolids  
19 are now sent to landfills. When they're in  
20 landfills, those biosolids are converted into  
21 methane, in an anaerobic environment. Methane is a  
22 potent greenhouse gas, which has a global warming  
23 potential of about thirty times more than CO<sub>2</sub>. So  
24 when those biosolids sit in a landfill, they're  
25 converted to methane over time.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 Now, landfills do have methane capture  
3 systems, but those systems tend to only be about  
4 seventy five percent effective at best. So that  
5 methane is warming our planet. Now, biochar as an  
6 alternative, converts those biosolids into a  
7 permanent form of carbon in biochar. In the process  
8 PFAS and other organic compounds, micro pollutants  
9 are destroyed in the production process, particularly  
10 at higher temperature pyrolysis, which will be  
11 employed by Saratoga Biochar.

12 It is true that some heavy metals are  
13 -- remain in the biochar. Now I want to point out  
14 that heavy metals can be contaminants. However, many  
15 heavy metals are also essential plant nutrients. The  
16 -- when a heavy metal becomes a pollutant has to do  
17 with the amount of that material that is applied on a  
18 field. Now, once this project is hopefully approved  
19 by New York State D.E.C. the State Department of  
20 Agriculture will review that application for  
21 fertilizer and will very likely provide an upper  
22 limit for how much of this fertilizer can be applied  
23 per acre, therefore reducing the risk of any heavy  
24 metal contamination to soil.

25 So in summary, I would like to just

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 say that this is a great solution for the -- for --  
3 for the climate. It's a step forward and it reduces  
4 risk associated with PFAS and other forever  
5 chemicals. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank You. Our next  
7 speaker is Barbara Heinzen. Go ahead.

8 MS. HEINZEN: Thank you very much. I  
9 work with the Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravina  
10 Queeners, a little bit further south from Moreau on  
11 the Hudson Valley. We have been working to reduce  
12 our emissions from our local industries because there  
13 has been a serious risk that the local cement plant  
14 would burn waste as fuel. And waste has a number of  
15 contaminants that are very mixed up. They're not  
16 clearly identified. And if that's true of ordinary  
17 municipal waste, which the cement plant wanted to  
18 burn, it's even more true of wastewater and sewer  
19 treatment plants, which concentrate waste from  
20 whatever is going into the sewer.

21 We also know from other research that  
22 we have more chemicals entering our environment than  
23 in any other time in history. Most of those are  
24 chemicals that have not been tested. So however good  
25 this pyrolysis and biochar plant might be, however

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 much it's tested for the chemicals we know about,  
3 what are the consequences for the chemicals we don't  
4 know are in the water or in the sewage sludge, and  
5 what their consequences will be.

6 I see no reason to turn Moreau into a  
7 test bed for a treatment that has many hazards and  
8 many unknowns, and doesn't seem to be fair to a co --  
9 to -- to a community that is already suffering from -  
10 - from a number of industrial pollutants. Thank you  
11 very much and I'll yield the rest of my time to  
12 whoever can speak.

13 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Our next speaker is  
14 Wayne Wells. Go ahead, Mr. Wells.

15 MR. WELLS: My name is Wayne Wells and  
16 I'm from Steuben County. My heart goes out to the  
17 people of Moreau, if this project is put through.  
18 Thirty-eight years ago, we were assaulted by a D.E.C.  
19 approved, liquid sewage sludge project that we were  
20 assured would be safe and be of great benefit to  
21 farmers. The -- the results of this project  
22 assaulting our community is beyond words. And what  
23 is tragic is the D.E.C. has lost all credibility and  
24 this is a central point to what I have to say.

25 If this project is allowed to go

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 through, do not count on the D.E.C. protecting the  
3 people. The D.E.C. will be there to protect the  
4 industry and its permit of that activity. We  
5 documented so well, the egregious violations of every  
6 -- practically every rule that the company that was  
7 spreading the sewage sludge, had in the D.E.C.  
8 permit. And I would like to say that the D -- D.E.C.  
9 regulations were very good. They were very well  
10 written. The problem is they were never applied with  
11 enforcement to con -- to curb the egregious abuse of  
12 -- of those rules and regulations.

13 So fast forward, (unintelligible) is  
14 coming into our area, in an alliance with -- with the  
15 Dixon Corporation, to spread more sludge on farmland.  
16 This must be stopped, because now we've done testing  
17 of wells and our streams, and it -- it has PFAS in  
18 it. When we started the fight, we had the backing of  
19 two professors emeritus from Cornell University, Dr.  
20 Lisk, toxicologist, Dr. Murray McBride, soil  
21 scientist. They unequivocally said, do not apply  
22 sewage sludge to soil. And this applies to this  
23 project.

24 So I urge the D.E.C. to regain its  
25 credibility. Reform, you cannot allow these projects

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 to go without having accountability and  
3 responsibility defined and curbs to abuses, which  
4 will take place when profit is the motive. So I urge  
5 everyone to deny and fight this project for your own  
6 good. Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
8 speaker is Bernice Mennis. Go ahead.

9 MS. MENNIS: I think I'm un -- I think  
10 I am unmuted; is that true?

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: That is correct.

12 MS. MENNIS: Thank you very much.  
13 It's interesting hearing everyone's comment. I am  
14 against the -- the biochar coming. I don't live in  
15 the area. I live further up north on the Westwood  
16 end, but I'm very concerned about the environment. I  
17 do not see biochar's helping our environment. They -  
18 - I know that in terms of many things that was banned  
19 by the European Union, two plans that we have are not  
20 in operation. I know that we have -- there's no  
21 traffic study, no environmental impact really. They  
22 did not complete the forms that they were supposed to  
23 complete, that the D.E.C. requested.

24 And I can -- I hear different  
25 speakers, but what I know is the P.F.A.S. and the

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 heavy metals are problematic. One is part of a  
3 chemical, the other can hurt crops and they can --  
4 and hurt livestock. There's something about just  
5 more and more problematic things coming into our  
6 environment. Again, the heavy metals, the P.F.A.S.  
7 and not having studies, no environmental impact  
8 statement. I feel like we should refuse this because  
9 it's -- from all I can see, there's more harm than  
10 good that will come to it. And environment for our -  
11 - our neighbors and our people will really suffer  
12 from it. So I would like it -- I would like the  
13 D.E.C. to refuse the permit for biochar to save our  
14 community. Thank you.

15 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
16 speaker is there, Cherise Gillis. If you've joined  
17 us by phone, please press star three on your phone to  
18 raise your hand so we can unmute your line. Cherise  
19 Gillis, if you've joined by phone, please press star  
20 three on your phone to raise your hand. We will  
21 unmute your line. Cherise Gillis.

22 Okay. I'll move on to our next  
23 speaker then, Sara Carpenter. Go ahead.

24 MS. CARPENTER: Can you hear me?

25 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 MS. CARPENTER: Okay. My name is Sara  
3 Carpenter. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical  
4 Engineering and I live -- live in Queensbury, New  
5 York, a short distance from Moreau. I've reviewed  
6 the proposal from Saratoga Biochar to convert human  
7 sewage and to create so-called biochar. I'm  
8 extremely concerned about this technology, which will  
9 create an undue risk to the people within five miles  
10 of this facility.

11 In addition, having read about the Sai  
12 -- Saratoga Biochar Management team, I believe they  
13 do not have the technical knowledge, experience nor  
14 track record to run a safe facility using unproven  
15 and dangerous technology. I strenuously object to  
16 the licensing and operation of the Saratoga Biochar  
17 operation to process human sewage and convert it to  
18 biochar.

19 Furthermore, and I'm sorry to say  
20 this, I'm a former plant manager of a Queensbury  
21 ethylene oxide sterilization facility, which includes  
22 extensive environmental control equipment, including  
23 a wet scrubber and a thermal oxidizer, much like  
24 biochar is proposing. This facility is monitored by  
25 the New York D.E.C. and in my capacity as a chemical



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 engineer and a plant manager, I do not have faith in  
3 the New York D.E.C.'s technical knowledge, experience  
4 and track record for monitoring chemical facilities  
5 of this type in their jurisdiction.

6 Again, I strenuously object to the  
7 licensing and operation of the Saratoga Biochar  
8 operation to process human sewage and convert it to  
9 so-called biochar. Thank you for this opportunity to  
10 share my perspective.

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. Our next  
12 speaker is Shannon Gillis. Shannon Gillis, if you've  
13 joined us by phone, please press star three on your  
14 phone so we can unmute your line. Shannon Gillis, if  
15 you've joined by phone, please press star three on  
16 your phone. We will unmute your line.

17 I'll go on to Matthew Savello.  
18 Matthew Savello, if you've joined us by phone, please  
19 press star three on your phone to raise your hand,  
20 and we will unmute your line. Matthew Savello. I  
21 have no raised hand.

22 At this point we've called all the  
23 speakers who have registered to speak, so I would  
24 like to offer to have anyone who's in attendance who  
25 would like to make a comment to raise their hand. We

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 can put the slide up again on the screen, just to  
3 tell people how to raise their hand.

4 If they've join -- if you've joined  
5 by phone, you can raise your hand and let us know  
6 you'd like to make a comment by pressing star three.  
7 Otherwise, on the bottom of your screen, if you've  
8 joined by the internet is a small hand icon and you  
9 can click on that to raise your hand. I'm going to  
10 start calling on the people who have raised their  
11 hand. The first person who's raised their hand is  
12 Bradley Toohill. We could unmute. Go ahead, Bradley  
13 Toohill, go ahead.

14 MR. TOOHILL: Can you hear me?

15 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

16 MR. TOOHILL: Hi, I appreciate it. As  
17 somebody who grew up in Illinois and has no real  
18 long-term stake in the city -- Town of Moreau, I  
19 moved up here last year sometime around June, and I  
20 was amazed when I heard about a Saratoga Biochar,  
21 somebody who grew up on a -- a small organic farm in  
22 Illinois. I was perplexed to say the least. I --  
23 I'm more familiar with the situation. I was even  
24 more confused. While on the surface level, anything  
25 can be designed to be fail proof or safe as my

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 background in nuclear engineering as well as  
3 electrical engineering, I know that's not true.

4 Nuclear containment as well as  
5 radiation controls, don't allow a single percent to  
6 be reeked or to be exposed to the general public.  
7 This is because it has cancer causing carcinogenics.  
8 It has other neg -- or major effects on the human  
9 body as well as the overall environment. I'd also  
10 like to call to attention -- I'm not sure where some  
11 people are from. I'm not from New York originally,  
12 as I stated. I'm not sure what an Ithaca is to be  
13 entirely honest. I know it's not in this general  
14 area. So I'm not sure who that may be or what impact  
15 they may be having on our -- our town.

16 While scrubbers and all those things  
17 are very good on the surface level, they will fail.  
18 It's natural, everything fails. As part of my job  
19 when I was in the nuclear navy, was to specifically  
20 plan for when things failed. So we would have pages  
21 on pages of S.O.P.'s, standard operating procedures.  
22 We'd have standing orders themselves that would alert  
23 us and tell us exactly what to do, when this  
24 happened. It wasn't if it would happen, it's when it  
25 happens. Luckily, the nuclear navy's had zero

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 nuclear meltdowns and zero major issues.

3 That can't be said for a public  
4 entity or a private entity, unfortunately. They  
5 don't have the access to unlimited federal money, to  
6 print off more money to make new seals, new  
7 containments, things of that nature. So as things  
8 fail and the bottom line starts creeping out. I'm  
9 extremely nervous that their negative pressure  
10 systems are going to start failing. They'll leave  
11 doors open, their seals themselves will fail, and the  
12 scrubbers will fail.

13 Without continuous monitoring via a  
14 analyzing unit, M.S.A. for example, there will be  
15 emissions. It's -- it's un -- it's not impossible  
16 not to have emissions. Somebody stated earlier that  
17 PFAS eliminated by this pyrolysis situation is  
18 ninety-nine point nine nine percent effective.  
19 That's great. I'm glad to hear it.

20 Unfortunately, in my own experience, I  
21 cannot have something that is not one hundred percent  
22 safe in eliminating something if I was planning on  
23 processing it. It's not allowed. If I could make a  
24 system that was one hundred percent effective, I  
25 would. Ninety-nine-point nine percent effective is

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 not good enough, when you're considering the future  
3 of a community, when you're considering the children,  
4 when you're considering just the overall health of  
5 the environment, local environment, even macro  
6 environment, due to biochar being sent elsewhere.

7 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Mr. Toohill -- Mr.  
8 Toohill your time has lapsed. Thank you for your  
9 comments.

10 MR. TOOHILL: Thank you.

11 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Our next speaker is a  
12 call-in user. We're going to unmute your line. If  
13 you could just identify yourself. Go ahead. You've  
14 been unmuted.

15 MR. ELLIS: Good afternoon or good  
16 evening. My name is Tom Ellis. I live in Albany,  
17 New York. Am I being heard?

18 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Yes.

19 MR. ELLIS: Oh, good. Thank you. I'm  
20 -- I'm pleased to be able to speak here. I'm calling  
21 from Albany. I'm a member of the Clean Air Action  
22 Network Board, but I'm speaking on behalf of myself.  
23 I remember thirty-five years ago, the Town of Moreau  
24 had a great town board, and Gardner Conge was the  
25 supervisor. And the Town of Moreau took on General

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 Electric, and they defeated General Electric. They  
3 forced General Electric to pay for new water supply  
4 system and part of the town because G.E. had polluted  
5 the town with P.C.B.s. So the town took on a very  
6 powerful company, much more powerful and  
7 sophisticated than Saratoga Biochar and you won. You  
8 won.

9 I'm urging you to restore yourself to  
10 the greatness of the past, and I'm asking the town to  
11 revoke the site permit that has been issued to  
12 Saratoga Biochar. It -- it has expired. Tell them  
13 it's no good anymore. Tell them if they want to come  
14 back into town, they have to reapply. Have the town  
15 issue a positive declaration, require the Saratoga  
16 Biochar to prepare an environmental impact statement,  
17 which should have been done two years ago.

18 I mean, just think about it. Saratoga  
19 Biochar has no track record whatsoever, and they  
20 tricked the former town board or convinced them  
21 somehow into not requiring an E.I.S. I mean, the  
22 reason we have an Environmental Impact Statement Law  
23 is to make sure that the environmental impacts of a  
24 project are con -- are considered, but it seems to me  
25 that the Saratoga Biochar is like a poster company

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 for why we have environmental impact statements. If  
3 you have no track record, how can you dare come in  
4 and say, we can do it right and expect people to  
5 believe you. But unfortunately, some people did.

6 So I'm encouraging the -- the Town of  
7 Moreau, you can defeat this project by yourself, I  
8 think, and you don't have to rely on D.E.C. And I  
9 would not rely on D.E.C. at -- at all. D.E.C. is as  
10 slippery as a -- as a white iceberg. And just as an  
11 example, the -- the D.E.C. allows a filthy  
12 incinerator to operate in Hudson Falls for more than  
13 thirty years. That thing is raining down poisons on  
14 the people who live underneath it, who I've met.

15 You know, you can't trust D.E.C. and  
16 don't let D.E.C. make the decision on this. Have the  
17 town board declare the site plan vacant and force the  
18 Saratoga Biochar to start over again. And let them  
19 know that you're going to play hardball with them  
20 this time. And I think that they'll get lost pretty  
21 quick. Thank you very much.

22 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you Mr. Ellis,  
23 our next speaker is David Publow. Go ahead, Mr.  
24 Publow.

25 MR. PUBLLOW: Dave Publow. First of

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 all, I'm Dave Publow. I live in Troy, New York. My  
3 family has long roots in the area, not far from Glens  
4 Falls, especially in Warrensburg. State of New York  
5 has sustained a bad habit of welcoming bad actors  
6 into the state, especially into the Hudson River  
7 Valley and all the way up to Glens Falls. General  
8 Electric, St. Cobain and others in Husick falls  
9 Norlight, Superfund sites galore. Despite that, you  
10 have a region rich in natural beauty and all the  
11 resources necessary for high quality of life. The  
12 focus should be on cleaning it up, not bringing in  
13 somebody else's waste.

14 You don't need another experimental,  
15 unproven technique to treat waste. You don't need to  
16 import other people's waste into the region. If  
17 Biochar is that good, the communities producing the  
18 waste should create biochar facilities in their own  
19 communities.

20 Dr. Walker has already commented on  
21 the problem with heavy metals. And so I will skip  
22 over that part. I'm actually going to go into  
23 something that a couple of other people have touched  
24 on, but I have some expertise in that. And that is  
25 the other issue here being, the D.E.C.'s own record



1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 of enforcement.

3 Like I said, I live in Troy and so I'm  
4 very close to Norlight, and I've been invested in  
5 trying to expose what's going on there. D.E.C. not  
6 only allowed but encouraged Norlight to attempt to  
7 burn P.F.A.S. chemicals using the capital region as a  
8 test community. Norlight failed miserably and the  
9 D.E.C. chose to avoid testing all the likely  
10 contamination hotspots in order to make the issue  
11 disappear.

12 During that same period, D.E.C.  
13 allowed Norlight to continue to operate while  
14 emitting toxic wastewater into the Mohawk River for  
15 twenty-two months straight. And that actually  
16 appears on -- on Norlight's enforcement history which  
17 is a D.E.C. document.

18 Also, the devil is in the details with  
19 confirming that companies are actually meeting  
20 compliance standards. Norlight again, for example,  
21 only has to show that it meets compliance standards  
22 for V.O.C.'s once a month, once a year for heavy  
23 metals at a pre-scheduled time. That affords way too  
24 many opportunities for abuse. They may meet those  
25 standards at those preset times, but at other times

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 amass violations, many of which will never be known.

3 Also, specified emission limits don't  
4 prevent bioaccumulation of contaminants over time,  
5 wherever the biochar ends up. Historically  
6 acceptable emission thresholds, keep shrinking as  
7 science continues to show that they only favor the  
8 short-term industry -- interests of industry and not  
9 living things. Thank you for your time.

10 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you very much.  
11 Our next speaker is Laura Orlando. Go ahead. You've  
12 been unmuted. Laura Orlando, you've been unmuted.  
13 Laura Orlando, you raised your hand to make a  
14 comment. You've been unmuted. Okay. Perhaps Laura  
15 Orlando's having a technical issue.

16 Is there anyone else who has not yet  
17 had an opportunity to make a comment, who would like  
18 to make a comment here this evening? Anyone who has  
19 not yet had an opportunity to make a comment, you can  
20 raise your hand. If you join by phone, you can press  
21 star three on your phone. Okay. We have a -- a  
22 person over the phone who has a raised hand. If we  
23 could unmute that line. It's five one eight seven  
24 four four. Go ahead. Could you tell us your name,  
25 please? You've been unmuted.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 MR. BLACKUS: Hi, my name is Russ  
3 Blackus.

4 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Go right ahead.

5 MR. BLACKUS: I have -- oftentimes  
6 questions are more important than answers because  
7 answers can be opinionated and I think that the  
8 question of why the owners who don't live in the area  
9 have all this positive information. And why would  
10 New York City send their sewage two hundred miles  
11 north? Is there no place closer? It's got to be  
12 very expensive to truck sewage two hundred miles  
13 north.

14 Why would they not -- would they be  
15 willing to send their children to Moreau School or  
16 Harrison Avenue School considering all of the  
17 information that has been documented tonight? You  
18 know, they don't live in the area and they have all  
19 this positive demonstration about biochar. That's  
20 pretty much all I have. Thank you.

21 A.L.J. MCBRIDE: Thank you. I'd like  
22 to unmute Laura Orlando one more time to see if  
23 perhaps her issue's been resolved. Laura Orlando,  
24 you've been unmuted. No, there must be a technical  
25 issue there.

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 Okay. Is there anyone else who has  
3 not yet had an opportunity to make a comment that  
4 would like to make a comment here this evening?  
5 Again, if you've joined by phone, press star three,  
6 if you've joined by the internet, there's a small  
7 hand icon on the bottom of your screen. You can  
8 click on that to raise your hand. I don't see any  
9 other raised hands.

10 It is now seven thirty. I would like  
11 to let everyone know that we will be having another  
12 hearing tomorrow evening in person at the South Glens  
13 Falls High School at six p.m. We encourage everyone  
14 to come out to the hearing. We will be calling all  
15 speakers who have not yet had an opportunity to make  
16 a comment tomorrow evening. So if you have not yet  
17 had an opportunity to make a comment here and you  
18 would like to comment tomorrow night, you may join us  
19 at the South Glens Falls High School. We welcome any  
20 members of the public that are able to join us  
21 tomorrow evening.

22 On behalf of the D.E.C., I would like  
23 to thank everyone who took the time to join us here  
24 this evening and make your comments on the record.  
25 We appreciate everyone taking the time from their

1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001  
2 evening to join us. It's an important process and we  
3 appreciate all of your cooperation, and we welcome  
4 everyone to join us tomorrow evening. Thank you very  
5 much. We're off the record.

6 (The hearing concluded at 7:31 p.m.)

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1 2/7/2024 - Saratoga Biochar Solutions - 5-4144-00187/00001

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, HOWARD HUBBARD, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
4 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,  
5 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that  
6 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of  
7 pages 1 through 69, is a true record of all proceedings  
8 had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
10 subscribed my name, this the 20th day of February, 2024.

11

12 HOWARD HUBBARD, Reporter

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<b>A</b>	
<b>A.L.J</b> 1:17 2:3,5 10:7,11 12:14 12:23 13:4 14:16 17:19 18:5 19:8,12 21:23 22:4 24:17,21 27:2,11,16 29:14,23 30:2,5,11 33:4,6,17 34:2 36:11 38:17,21 41:5 43:19 44:4 46:22 49:3 51:6 52:13 54:7,11 55:15,25 57:11 58:15 61:7,11,18 63:22 66:10 67:4,21	<b>adopted</b> 17:16 <b>adverse</b> 21:5 24:12 <b>advocate</b> 20:3 47:5 <b>affords</b> 65:23 <b>afternoon</b> 61:15 <b>agency</b> 11:3 32:16 37:22 40:11 <b>ages</b> 13:8 <b>ago</b> 34:5,7,25 52:18 61:23 62:17 <b>agricultural</b> 20:13 34:19 35:25 36:5,9 49:14 <b>Agriculture</b> 50:20 <b>agroforestry</b> 19:18 <b>ahead</b> 12:24 14:24 19:10 21:24 24:18 27:9,21 30:5 33:24 34:2 36:12 38:18 41:17 44:5 46:23 49:4 51:7 52:14 54:8 55:23 58:12,13 61:13 63:23 66:11,24 67:4 <b>air</b> 1:5 3:7,7,22 8:11 10:22 12:12 14:9 16:17 22:9 23:9,19 30:17 31:24 32:2,11,17,22 33:11 36:15 37:24 46:3 47:19 48:25 51:9 61:21 <b>akin</b> 43:25 <b>alarm</b> 32:16 <b>Albany</b> 61:16,21 <b>alcohols</b> 35:15 <b>alert</b> 59:22 <b>align</b> 48:17 <b>alkanes</b> 35:16 <b>alliance</b> 53:14 <b>allow</b> 32:4 33:10,14 45:15 53:25 59:5 <b>allowed</b> 11:21 17:10 25:8,8 52:25 60:23 65:6,13 <b>allowing</b> 9:16 17:8 21:19 <b>allows</b> 20:12 63:11 <b>alternative</b> 50:6 <b>alternatives</b> 36:7 <b>altogether</b> 7:18 <b>amass</b> 66:2 <b>amazed</b> 58:20 <b>amendment</b> 20:12 34:20 35:25 36:5 48:23 <b>amount</b> 20:14,15 30:8 31:16 33:5 35:13 45:20 50:17 <b>anaerobic</b> 49:21 <b>analyzed</b> 35:18 <b>analyzing</b> 60:14 <b>angered</b> 22:12
<b>Aaron</b> 5:11 <b>ability</b> 15:25 <b>able</b> 8:19 10:21 61:20 68:20 <b>Abodi</b> 41:19 <b>absorbed</b> 20:10 21:18 <b>abuse</b> 53:11 65:24 <b>abuses</b> 54:3 <b>academic</b> 41:21 <b>accept</b> 3:9 <b>acceptable</b> 66:6 <b>accepting</b> 4:21 <b>access</b> 24:8 60:5 <b>accesses</b> 26:13 <b>accidents</b> 48:5 <b>accountability</b> 24:3 40:2 54:2 <b>accumulate</b> 34:21 <b>accumulated</b> 21:19 <b>accurate</b> 7:7 <b>achieve</b> 45:2,24,25 46:7 <b>achieved</b> 11:2 45:11 <b>acre</b> 50:23 <b>Act</b> 3:17 <b>action</b> 4:7 23:9 61:21 <b>active</b> 47:5 <b>activist</b> 18:7 <b>activity</b> 53:4 <b>actors</b> 64:5 <b>Adamson</b> 46:23,24,24 <b>add</b> 11:23 29:10 <b>addition</b> 2:19 23:18 56:11 <b>additional</b> 45:5,6 <b>address</b> 5:4,6,7,8,10,14 7:8 17:16 28:15 38:25 <b>addresses</b> 5:15,18 <b>adjacent</b> 9:5 18:11 <b>administrative</b> 2:9 <b>admired</b> 40:11 <b>admitted</b> 14:8 <b>adopt</b> 29:8	

**animal** 37:13  
**animals** 21:4  
**Ann** 14:24, 25  
**announced** 9:6 11:24  
**Anodai** 41:6, 9, 11  
**answer** 2:18 4:20  
**answers** 67:6, 7  
**Anthony** 41:13, 13  
**anticipate** 13:10 45:4  
**anymore** 62:13  
**apartment** 13:16  
**apologize** 6:14  
**appears** 48:14 65:16  
**applicant** 1:13 2:23 15:10, 20, 23  
 15:25 16:4, 10, 13 22:8, 21  
 23:20 24:6 44:23  
**applicant's** 15:18  
**application** 1:4, 5 2:13, 18 3:4, 6  
 4:13, 20, 22 20:16 22:9 23:2, 5  
 23:20, 22, 24 25:22 26:17 31:20  
 40:14 44:15 48:21 50:20  
**applications** 34:21 44:18  
**applied** 8:16 20:23 21:17 34:14  
 49:18 50:17, 22 53:10  
**applies** 53:22  
**apply** 53:21  
**appreciate** 38:24 58:16 68:25  
 69:3  
**approval** 10:2 15:4 37:22 47:10  
 48:6  
**approve** 37:18  
**approved** 8:5 22:13 43:13 50:18  
 52:19  
**approving** 31:12 37:21  
**area** 13:12, 23 31:5, 19 37:2, 10  
 37:17 38:12 39:14 47:4 48:4, 5  
 53:14 54:15 59:14 64:3 67:8  
 67:18  
**areas** 11:21 14:14 25:20 30:20  
**Aries** 8:22 9:6, 13, 14  
**Article** 48:22  
**ash** 9:15  
**asked** 6:10  
**asking** 62:10  
**aspects** 35:6  
**assaulted** 52:18  
**assaulting** 52:22  
**associated** 17:5 40:6 51:4  
**assure** 10:3  
**assured** 52:20

**Atlantics** 42:18  
**atmosphere** 20:11  
**attempt** 65:6  
**attempts** 10:3 32:11  
**attendance** 33:20 57:24  
**attendee** 17:21  
**attendees** 14:18 41:7  
**attention** 23:25 28:25 59:10  
**audio** 27:12, 18  
**Auric** 43:14  
**authored** 19:25  
**authorized** 23:21  
**authors** 42:20  
**available** 3:22 5:15, 16 24:8  
**Avenue** 67:16  
**average** 33:13  
**avoid** 16:24 65:9  
**aware** 20:6

---

**B**


---

**B-U-R-N-S** 5:11  
**Bachelor's** 56:3  
**back** 27:17, 20 62:14  
**background** 59:2  
**backing** 53:18  
**backtrack** 10:16  
**bad** 7:19 64:5, 5  
**badges** 9:12  
**ban** 36:2  
**banned** 35:25 40:21, 22 41:24  
 54:18  
**Barbara** 51:7  
**based** 8:6  
**basically** 42:10, 24 45:20 46:5  
**batch** 8:16  
**batches** 8:18, 20 9:12 15:13  
**beacon** 40:16  
**bear** 10:12 17:17 48:8  
**beauty** 64:10  
**bed** 52:7  
**began** 10:16  
**begging** 10:2  
**behalf** 2:7 5:25 6:11 61:22  
 68:22  
**behavior** 35:7  
**believe** 15:3 28:14 32:24 56:12  
 63:5  
**beneficial** 3:13 37:18, 23  
**benefit** 20:22 26:24 52:20  
**benefits** 20:18, 18



**Bernice** 54:8  
**best** 50:4  
**betrayal** 39:21  
**better** 35:10  
**beyond** 25:18 26:18 52:22  
**bills** 47:5  
**Bio** 20:22 44:22  
**bio-accumulate** 21:3  
**bioaccumulation** 66:4  
**biochar** 1:1,13 2:1,14 3:1 4:1  
 5:1 6:1 7:1,16,23 8:1,7,17  
 9:1,5,14,14 10:1,3,14 11:1,9  
 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1,5,15 16:1  
 17:1 18:1,13,14,15,17,19,21  
 19:1,14,17,20,21,22 20:1,5,6  
 20:21 21:1,6 22:1,8 23:1,21  
 24:1 25:1,23 26:1,18 27:1  
 28:1 29:1,2,9 30:1 31:1,2,7  
 31:13,20,21,22 32:1,5,9,24,25  
 33:1 34:1,16 35:1,13,24 36:1  
 36:4,23 37:1,15 38:1 39:1,15  
 39:17,19 40:1,3,7,22,24 41:1  
 42:1,15,17 43:1,12,25 44:1,10  
 44:12,23 45:1,5 46:1,16 47:1  
 47:11 48:1,13,15 49:1,6,12,15  
 50:1,5,7,11,13 51:1,25 52:1  
 53:1 54:1,14 55:1,13 56:1,6,7  
 56:12,16,18,24 57:1,7,9 58:1  
 58:20 59:1 60:1 61:1,6 62:1,7  
 62:12,16,19,25 63:1,18 64:1  
 64:17,18 65:1 66:1,5 67:1,19  
 68:1 69:1 70:1  
**biochar-based** 20:8  
**biochar's** 9:17 32:15,19 54:17  
**biochars** 7:18  
**biomass** 20:8  
**biosolid** 13:20 21:15  
**biosolids** 2:25 3:10 16:14 18:9  
 18:12 19:2 20:6 21:8,11,17  
 26:5 28:21,23 32:19,23 34:24  
 49:12,15,17,18,20,24 50:6  
**bit** 51:10  
**Blackus** 67:2,3,5  
**blood** 42:12 43:7  
**board** 7:25 8:5 19:19,20,21  
 22:13,22 23:18,23 61:22,24  
 62:20 63:17  
**body** 30:12 59:9  
**bonds** 46:12  
**book** 19:24 39:7

**bottom** 58:7 60:8 68:7  
**Box** 5:12  
**Bradley** 58:12,12  
**Branzino** 27:3,6,10,14 29:15,15  
 29:20 33:18,19  
**break** 10:20 43:7,8  
**breaks** 46:11  
**breathing** 32:13  
**Brian** 27:3,6,20 33:18,19  
**briefly** 46:21  
**bring** 7:25 34:6  
**bringing** 64:12  
**broadly** 37:16  
**brunt** 17:17  
**Bubello** 12:24 13:2,5  
**BUD** 3:13  
**budget** 35:2,19  
**build** 11:9 26:14 31:2  
**building** 23:11,12  
**built** 7:24 43:13  
**bulletin** 4:16  
**burden** 16:16  
**burdens** 47:3  
**Bureau** 30:16  
**burn** 8:17 11:11 19:25 31:2  
 47:17 51:14,18 65:7  
**burner** 45:25  
**burning** 7:17 8:2,20,24 10:4  
 29:11 32:3  
**Burns** 5:11

---

**C**


---

**C.L.C.P.A** 3:17,20 4:8,12 47:7  
 48:17  
**C.R.R-N.Y** 24:5  
**cadmium** 37:24 43:22  
**calculated** 45:17  
**calendar** 5:17  
**call** 5:22,23 6:4,14 7:12 13:20  
 23:25 27:17 29:18 33:19 40:23  
 49:4 59:10  
**call-in** 61:12  
**called** 19:25 31:7 57:22  
**calling** 7:11 58:10 61:20 68:14  
**calls** 30:9,12  
**Canal** 48:10  
**cancer** 7:22 9:22,23 11:4,5 12:9  
 13:13 17:2 22:15 32:14 33:12  
 59:7  
**cancers** 17:4

<p> <b>capable</b> 21:18  <b>capacity</b> 56:25  <b>capital</b> 65:7  <b>caption</b> 70:5  <b>capture</b> 37:4 50:2  <b>carbon</b> 2:25 19:16 20:9 28:18  45:3,6 46:12 50:7  <b>carbonize</b> 19:23  <b>carbonizing</b> 20:3  <b>carcinogenics</b> 59:7  <b>carcinogens</b> 10:20 11:14 12:7,20  <b>care</b> 26:19  <b>career</b> 36:15 39:10  <b>careful</b> 43:16  <b>Carpenter</b> 55:23,24 56:2,3  <b>carry</b> 31:11  <b>case</b> 35:6 48:12  <b>catastrophic</b> 16:8  <b>cattle</b> 42:4  <b>cause</b> 32:14 70:4  <b>caused</b> 11:3 43:3  <b>causing</b> 59:7  <b>caution</b> 38:13  <b>cell</b> 46:14  <b>Cellarius</b> 18:3,4,6,7  <b>cement</b> 9:15 51:13,17  <b>central</b> 52:24  <b>certainly</b> 18:24 38:12  <b>certify</b> 70:3  <b>chain</b> 21:4 35:14 36:8  <b>chains</b> 43:6  <b>chair</b> 18:7 19:19  <b>chamber</b> 45:14 46:5  <b>changed</b> 34:22  <b>Chapter</b> 42:18  <b>char</b> 35:17  <b>checked</b> 37:16  <b>chemical</b> 20:14 38:4 47:21 48:9  55:3 56:3,25 57:4  <b>chemicals</b> 7:22 8:14 9:20 10:5  11:14,17 21:2 30:23 40:9  49:13 51:5,22,24 52:2,3 65:7  <b>Cherise</b> 55:16,18,21  <b>cherry</b> 8:8  <b>children</b> 13:7 22:11 61:3 67:15  <b>China</b> 44:20  <b>chips</b> 13:24 36:25  <b>choose</b> 7:9  <b>chose</b> 65:9  <b>chosen</b> 11:2 </p>	<p> <b>circle</b> 43:14  <b>cites</b> 15:20 48:2  <b>citizen</b> 36:20 41:22  <b>city</b> 58:18 67:10  <b>claim</b> 15:17 32:5  <b>claims</b> 31:23 32:9,20  <b>clean</b> 8:23 10:24 48:25 51:9  61:21  <b>cleaning</b> 30:19 64:12  <b>clear</b> 4:2 23:8 35:7,9 49:15  <b>clearly</b> 7:4,6 23:3 51:16  <b>click</b> 58:9 68:8  <b>climate</b> 3:16 19:18 20:17,18,19  28:16,19 39:18 47:6 48:19  49:12 51:3  <b>clinical</b> 41:21 44:2  <b>close</b> 28:25 65:4  <b>closer</b> 67:11  <b>closes</b> 4:23  <b>closest</b> 22:22  <b>Club's</b> 18:8 42:18  <b>co-</b> 19:24  <b>Coalition</b> 51:9  <b>Cobain</b> 64:8  <b>code</b> 15:23  <b>Codes</b> 1:7,11  <b>Columbia</b> 34:5  <b>combination</b> 45:11  <b>combustion</b> 29:11 44:8 45:13,15  <b>come</b> 27:20 36:14 55:10 62:13  63:3 68:14  <b>coming</b> 31:19 53:14 54:14 55:5  <b>commenced</b> 2:2  <b>comment</b> 1:14 2:13,16,21 3:23  4:14,15,19,23 5:21,22 7:10  24:4 54:13 57:25 58:6 66:14  66:17,18,19 68:3,4,16,17,18  <b>commented</b> 64:20  <b>comments</b> 2:17 4:22,24 5:2,4,9  5:10,13 6:18,19,21,22,23,25  7:4,6,9 19:6 24:15 26:21 33:8  61:9 68:24  <b>commingled</b> 36:24  <b>Committee</b> 18:8  <b>commodities</b> 7:19 8:15  <b>communities</b> 12:10 13:15 14:10  16:25 25:7 26:6 40:15,25 48:3  64:17,19  <b>community</b> 3:16 9:22 11:6 12:19  13:11 14:12 16:16,21 17:7,14 </p>
--	---

17:17 18:11 20:20 23:8 25:7  
 25:20 26:2,9,9,20,22 31:14  
 43:25 52:9,22 55:14 61:3 65:8  
**companies** 9:20 35:25 65:19  
**company** 8:22 25:15,17 34:7 53:6  
 62:6,25  
**company's** 40:4  
**comparable** 15:22  
**compared** 49:14  
**Compilation** 1:7,11  
**complaints** 36:20  
**complete** 4:13 9:7 33:7 54:22,23  
**completed** 6:20 9:10  
**completely** 31:25  
**complex** 13:16,16  
**compliance** 65:20,21  
**compound** 46:13  
**compounds** 21:10 45:19,21 46:20  
 50:8  
**comprehensive** 35:2  
**compromise** 40:24  
**computer** 29:16  
**con** 53:11 62:24  
**concentrate** 51:19  
**concentrated** 14:5  
**concentration** 29:4,5  
**concentrations** 28:13 29:3  
**concern** 8:13 13:8,19 34:12,23  
 38:3  
**concerned** 47:2 54:16 56:8  
**concerning** 25:2  
**concerns** 15:3 18:25 34:10,11  
 36:22 40:4 49:18  
**conclude** 6:22 43:20  
**concluded** 10:25 69:6  
**concrete** 9:16  
**condensable** 35:16  
**conditional** 37:19  
**conducted** 15:10  
**confident** 15:25  
**confidential** 32:6  
**confirmed** 23:7  
**confirming** 65:19  
**confused** 58:24  
**Conge** 61:24  
**connection** 6:9  
**connections** 28:2  
**consequences** 52:3,5  
**Conservation** 1:3 2:10 25:22  
 26:16 28:7 44:22  
**consider** 14:11,12 18:20 26:16  
**consideration** 41:4  
**considered** 5:2,3 62:24  
**considering** 31:20 61:2,3,4  
 67:16  
**considers** 31:12  
**consistency** 3:19 4:11  
**consistent** 4:8  
**consisting** 3:4 70:6  
**consists** 8:8  
**constituents** 38:7  
**Constitution** 48:23  
**construct** 2:23 9:4  
**constructed** 3:3  
**construction** 3:5,10 13:18 16:4  
**consulting** 8:25  
**contain** 11:15 42:23  
**containment** 59:4  
**containments** 60:7  
**contains** 7:19 12:8 18:15  
**contaminant** 25:6  
**contaminants** 18:16,22 23:14  
 28:17 34:24 45:2 50:14 51:15  
 66:4  
**contaminate** 9:18  
**contaminated** 11:13,25 42:3  
 47:19 49:9  
**contaminating** 16:19  
**contamination** 8:11 16:9 21:7,9  
 50:24 65:10  
**contaminations** 42:7  
**content** 15:14 21:2,16,19  
**continue** 30:21,23 33:12 65:13  
**continues** 26:10 66:7  
**continuous** 60:13  
**contribute** 38:8 39:16  
**control** 29:2 44:16 56:22  
**controls** 34:9 59:5  
**convert** 20:6 56:6,17 57:8  
**converted** 49:20,25  
**converting** 49:11  
**converts** 50:6  
**convinced** 62:20  
**Cool** 19:25  
**cooperation** 69:3  
**Cornell** 39:13 53:19  
**Corporation** 25:4 44:9 53:15  
**correct** 6:14 54:11  
**count** 53:2  
**country** 48:14

**country's** 30:16  
**County** 52:16  
**couple** 64:23  
**course** 34:11  
**court** 47:13  
**court's** 7:5  
**cow's** 42:8  
**cows** 42:10  
**cracked** 15:23  
**create** 7:18 9:14 13:24 25:19  
 56:7,9 64:18  
**credibility** 52:23 53:25  
**creeping** 60:8  
**criteria** 24:7  
**critical** 8:13  
**critically** 8:11  
**crop** 20:23 21:7,18 42:2  
**crops** 21:20 42:3 55:3  
**cumulative** 43:17  
**curb** 53:11  
**curbs** 54:3  
**current** 28:14,20  
**currently** 8:20 11:8 15:6 20:23  
**custom** 44:16  
**cycle** 10:21

---

**D**

---

**D** 53:8  
**D.C** 48:6  
**D.E.C** 1:4 2:8 3:7 5:10,16 10:2  
 15:4 16:23 23:2 24:3 28:11  
 29:10 31:12,24 32:4,4,8,14  
 33:15 37:18,23 38:25 39:22  
 40:2,10,16,23 41:2 43:24  
 47:10 48:6,8,16 50:19 52:18  
 52:23 53:2,3,7,8,24 54:23  
 55:13 56:25 63:8,9,9,11,15,16  
 64:25 65:5,9,12,17 68:22  
**D.E.C.'s** 2:11 31:13 36:15 40:11  
 57:3  
**D.R.E** 45:18,24  
**daily** 8:18 11:12 13:23 26:5  
 37:8  
**damage** 16:12 33:15  
**dangerous** 23:3 47:9 56:15  
**dangers** 18:9  
**dare** 63:3  
**data** 15:7 17:9 23:13,17  
**date** 1:15 5:17 8:18 34:6 48:14  
**Daval** 12:15

**Davall** 10:8,9,10,12 12:17  
**Dave** 34:3 63:25 64:2  
**David** 33:23 63:23  
**day** 36:24 37:6,7 38:8 70:10  
**de** 26:15  
**deadline** 24:15  
**deals** 18:8  
**decades** 17:11 43:8  
**decided** 9:2  
**decision** 63:16  
**declaration** 47:14 62:15  
**declare** 63:17  
**decline** 28:13  
**dedicated** 39:12  
**defeat** 63:7  
**defeated** 62:2  
**deficiency** 35:6  
**defined** 54:3  
**definitely** 34:20  
**degradation** 35:15  
**Degree** 56:3  
**degrees** 35:10 46:7  
**delineate** 15:12  
**demise** 35:3  
**demonstrated** 28:18  
**demonstration** 67:19  
**Dennis** 10:8,10  
**deny** 10:2 12:12,17 25:22 43:24  
 54:5  
**denying** 26:17  
**Department** 1:3 2:10,17,20 3:18  
 3:21,23 4:2,6,10,21,25 5:19  
 6:24 7:14 25:21 26:15 28:7  
 44:21 50:19  
**Department's** 4:16  
**depict** 23:13  
**derived** 35:24 39:17  
**design** 28:9 44:16 46:2,2  
**designated** 9:23 11:4 12:6,9  
**designation** 31:14  
**designed** 3:2 58:25  
**despite** 37:4 64:9  
**destroy** 18:23,24 25:16 32:12,18  
 32:22 33:2,11 45:9  
**destroyed** 15:18 21:13,16 25:6  
 35:4 45:21 50:9  
**destroying** 25:25  
**destroys** 21:10 31:25 44:25  
**destruction** 15:24 28:16 45:11  
 46:8

**details** 65:18  
**determination** 3:13,24 4:3,10  
 37:19,23  
**determine** 32:21  
**determined** 9:24 17:12  
**deterred** 43:5  
**detrimental** 25:25  
**devastating** 35:23  
**develop** 13:25  
**developed** 13:17  
**developers** 28:24  
**development** 39:4 44:14  
**devil** 65:18  
**Diana** 41:6,9,11,16,19  
**difference** 9:13  
**different** 54:24  
**digested** 37:13  
**dioxide** 20:10  
**dioxins** 7:20  
**direction** 49:16  
**directly** 12:5 24:4 26:14 44:13  
**Director** 19:16 44:8 49:6  
**dirt** 25:8  
**disadvantaged** 11:6 12:19 16:24  
 31:14 48:3  
**disappear** 35:11 65:11  
**discharging** 10:16  
**discussed** 22:17 23:20  
**disease** 39:5  
**diseases** 43:3  
**disingenuous** 37:17  
**dismayed** 22:12  
**dispersion** 23:13  
**disposal** 49:15  
**disproportionate** 16:15,22 47:17  
**disproportionately** 17:4  
**disrupt** 23:15  
**disruption** 45:18  
**distance** 56:5  
**distribution** 25:11  
**diverting** 28:23  
**Division** 36:15  
**Dixon** 53:15  
**docks** 34:9  
**document** 22:21 65:17  
**documented** 53:5 67:17  
**documents** 44:15  
**domestic** 38:6,14  
**doors** 60:11  
**Doris** 18:3,6

**doubt** 25:18 26:19  
**downstream** 38:11 46:18  
**dozen** 19:15  
**Dr** 53:19,20 64:20  
**draft** 3:22 22:10  
**Draper** 19:9,11,13,14  
**dredging** 10:25  
**drew** 36:18  
**due** 8:3 37:2 61:6  
**Dummies** 39:7  
**dumping** 9:20 17:7  
**dust** 19:2  
**dysfunctional** 47:24

---

**E**


---

**E. I. S** 62:21  
**E. P. A** 9:24 11:2,16 30:9,12,17  
 30:21 31:3,10 32:20,25  
**earlier** 60:16  
**Earth** 20:2 34:4  
**easier** 11:25  
**easily** 10:21  
**echo** 15:2 27:15  
**education** 39:6  
**Edward** 10:19 14:14 25:5 31:16  
**effect** 26:8  
**effective** 15:24 37:10 50:4  
 60:18,24,25  
**effectively** 11:17 38:15  
**effectiveness** 43:5  
**effects** 21:5 24:12 25:20 43:17  
 59:8  
**efficiency** 45:18  
**effluent** 38:10  
**efforts** 16:23 37:4  
**egregious** 53:5,11  
**eight** 35:9 66:23  
**eighties** 39:3  
**eighty-one** 30:14  
**either** 4:7 6:8 10:5  
**elections** 47:13  
**Electric** 62:2,2,3 64:8  
**electrical** 59:3  
**Elementary** 24:25  
**eliminate** 8:14 10:4 49:13  
**eliminated** 60:17  
**eliminating** 60:22  
**Ellis** 61:15,16,19 63:22  
**else's** 64:13  
**email** 4:24 5:6,13,13

**emendations** 36:10  
**emeritus** 19:19 34:4 53:19  
**emission** 16:9 32:2 36:9 44:20  
 45:3 66:3,6  
**emissions** 3:8 8:11 15:17 20:17  
 23:13 32:18,23 37:12 46:9  
 51:12 60:15,16  
**emit** 47:18  
**emitted** 20:15  
**emitting** 65:14  
**emphasize** 11:22  
**employed** 50:11  
**enable** 35:3  
**encourage** 6:23 68:13  
**encouraged** 65:6  
**encouraging** 63:6  
**endorsing** 39:15  
**ends** 66:5  
**enforcement** 53:11 65:2,16  
**engineer** 28:2 44:7 49:7 57:2  
**engineering** 9:2 44:11 49:9 56:4  
 59:2,3  
**engineers** 36:17  
**ensure** 4:7 16:11  
**enter** 26:2  
**entering** 51:22  
**enters** 46:13  
**entire** 25:6  
**entirely** 8:6 59:13  
**entities** 29:8  
**entity** 60:4,4  
**Environ** 26:15  
**environment** 10:21 11:18 12:20  
 16:10 17:11 18:18 39:21 40:25  
 43:8 48:25 49:21 51:22 54:16  
 54:17 55:6,10 59:9 61:5,5,6  
**environmental** 1:3 2:10 4:16 9:2  
 16:15,22 25:5,22,25 26:16  
 28:2,7 32:16 34:4 36:17 40:5  
 40:15 44:22 47:7 48:18 54:21  
 55:7 56:22 62:16,22,23 63:2  
**environmentalist** 39:7,11 41:3  
**environmentally** 28:21 31:14  
**envisioned** 41:3  
**equal** 5:19 6:25  
**equipment** 15:13 56:22  
**especially** 11:21 64:4,6  
**essential** 50:15  
**essentially** 45:8  
**estimated** 10:17 11:11

**ethylene** 56:21  
**European** 40:21 54:19  
**evaluate** 8:2  
**evening** 2:6,7,21 6:13,17 7:3,5  
 7:8,10,14 13:5 38:23 61:16  
 66:18 68:4,12,16,21,24 69:2,4  
**evenly** 8:16  
**event** 16:7,8  
**everyone's** 54:13  
**evolved** 37:25  
**exact** 22:24  
**exactly** 59:23  
**exaggerated** 31:23 32:19,20  
**example** 60:14 63:11 65:20  
**examples** 48:9  
**excellent** 34:7 42:19  
**excerpts** 8:8  
**excrement** 37:2,13 38:14  
**Excuse** 5:14 33:6  
**existing** 31:3 49:14  
**exit** 46:12  
**expands** 45:5  
**expect** 37:11 63:4  
**Expecting** 37:15  
**expendable** 48:7  
**expensive** 67:12  
**experience** 16:4 28:3 56:13 57:3  
 60:20  
**experiencing** 17:3  
**experiment** 17:17  
**experimental** 10:14 11:10,10  
 43:24 44:2 64:14  
**expert** 8:5 40:7  
**expertise** 64:24  
**experts** 7:25 23:7  
**expired** 12:15 33:7 62:12  
**expose** 65:5  
**exposed** 12:11 13:11 59:6  
**exposure** 12:11 17:5  
**express** 27:23,24 49:10  
**expressed** 13:9  
**extended** 48:4  
**extensive** 56:22  
**extremely** 25:2 56:8 60:9

---

**F**

---

**F** 41:16  
**facilitator** 40:17  
**facilities** 3:19 57:4 64:18  
**facility** 1:6,9 2:24 3:2,7,9,22

3:25 4:4,6 9:5 15:19 16:2,3,6  
 18:10,23 23:11,12 37:4 45:6  
 56:10,14,21,24  
**facility's** 4:11  
**facing** 11:8  
**fact** 11:15 13:19 23:7 35:4  
**factor** 34:16  
**facts** 22:7  
**Fahrenheit** 46:7  
**fail** 58:25 59:17 60:8,11,12  
**failed** 59:20 65:8  
**failing** 60:10  
**fails** 15:12 59:18  
**fair** 52:8  
**faith** 57:2  
**falls** 2:22 10:10,18 11:5,6 12:6  
 14:13,14,14 30:9,15 31:15,15  
 38:6 47:4 48:11 63:12 64:4,7  
 64:8 68:13,19  
**false** 32:15  
**familiar** 58:23  
**family** 23:5 64:3  
**fantasized** 39:11  
**far** 9:19 64:3  
**farm** 42:5,6,13 58:21  
**farmers** 42:4,11 52:21  
**farming** 19:18 42:4  
**farmland** 53:15  
**farmlands** 47:22  
**farms** 41:25  
**fast** 10:23 25:10 53:13  
**father** 22:11  
**favor** 66:7  
**feasibility** 8:2  
**features** 29:5  
**February** 70:10  
**federal** 29:3 60:5  
**federally** 31:10  
**feedstock** 3:2  
**feedstocks** 20:9  
**feel** 15:25 55:8  
**feet** 22:23  
**felt** 22:17  
**fertilizer** 2:25 3:14 9:17 20:8  
 20:11,14,24 36:7 37:16 42:3  
 45:4,6 47:20 50:21,22  
**fertilizers** 37:21  
**field** 28:3 50:18  
**fields** 42:23 49:9  
**fifteen** 16:14  
**fifty-four** 44:17  
**fight** 53:18 54:5  
**fighting** 25:11  
**filed** 7:13 22:21  
**filler** 9:16  
**filling** 28:20  
**filthy** 63:11  
**filtration** 31:25 32:11,18,22  
**final** 3:24,24 4:3,4,5 10:2  
**financial** 27:25  
**financially** 16:12  
**findings** 32:21  
**fire** 16:8 19:25  
**firm** 9:2 31:22,23 44:11  
**first** 7:14 9:8 10:13 15:8 16:3  
 37:17 46:10,12 58:11 63:25  
**firsthand** 25:5  
**five** 9:4 13:7 50:4 56:9 66:23  
**fix** 29:20  
**fluorine** 35:2,19  
**Fluro** 35:17  
**Focker** 41:18,19 43:21  
**focus** 64:12  
**focused** 19:17  
**folks** 7:23  
**food** 21:4 36:8  
**force** 63:17  
**forced** 24:6 62:3  
**foregoing** 70:3,6  
**forever** 7:21 8:14 11:14 21:2  
 30:23 32:12 47:21 49:13 51:4  
**form** 50:7  
**former** 56:20 62:20  
**forms** 54:22  
**Fort** 10:19 14:13 25:4 31:16  
**forty** 25:10 28:3 30:19 37:7,9  
**forty-six** 25:3  
**forward** 10:23 25:10 51:3 53:13  
**found** 21:15 22:25 32:20 35:19  
 39:8 42:14  
**founder** 38:23  
**four** 8:6 22:11 44:17 66:24,24  
**frequently** 20:23  
**Friends** 10:24  
**fuel** 46:3 51:14  
**fugitive** 37:11  
**full** 15:21  
**fully** 9:7 44:16  
**fundamental** 39:25  
**funded** 31:10

**funding** 28:10  
**further** 16:24 20:16 33:14 46:14  
 47:4 51:10 54:15  
**Furthermore** 56:19  
**future** 14:12 18:14 31:19 41:3  
 61:2

---

**G**

---

**G.E** 9:24 10:16 25:4 30:19 33:10  
 33:11 62:4  
**galore** 64:9  
**gardens** 47:22  
**Gardner** 61:24  
**gas** 16:17 20:17 45:2 49:22  
**gaseous** 21:12 45:9  
**gases** 45:13 46:14  
**gasses** 46:12  
**general** 3:11 49:11 59:6,13  
 61:25 62:2,3 64:7  
**generations** 48:24  
**George** 46:25  
**getting** 27:14  
**Gillibrand** 11:23  
**Gillis** 55:16,19,21 57:12,12,14  
**Give** 22:2  
**given** 15:16 35:22  
**gives** 5:19 6:25  
**giving** 18:10  
**glad** 60:19  
**Glen** 10:10  
**Glen's** 38:6  
**Glens** 2:22 11:6 14:14,14 31:15  
 47:4 64:3,7 68:12,19  
**global** 49:22  
**go** 5:17 10:11 12:24 13:10 14:23  
 14:24 18:2 19:9 21:24 24:18  
 27:9,19,21 30:5 33:23,24 34:2  
 36:12 38:18 41:12,16 43:2  
 44:5 45:22 46:23 49:4 51:7  
 52:14,25 54:2,8 55:23 57:17  
 58:12,13 61:13 63:23 64:22  
 66:11,24 67:4  
**goal** 11:2  
**goals** 20:19  
**goes** 52:16  
**going** 2:6 14:6,8,23 18:18 22:3  
 26:19,21 27:8,17,19 29:19  
 33:17 41:12 43:2 49:4 51:20  
 58:9 60:10 61:12 63:19 64:22  
 65:5

**good** 2:5,6,7 13:5 23:21 32:7  
 38:23 45:12,24 51:24 53:9  
 54:6 55:10 59:17 61:2,15,15  
 61:19 62:13 64:17  
**governing** 11:19  
**granting** 37:23  
**grassroots** 39:12  
**Gray** 14:17,17,18,22 49:4,5,5  
**great** 17:9 21:6 24:22 38:22  
 51:2 52:20 60:19 61:24  
**greater** 16:23 43:15 45:22 47:4  
 51:9  
**greatness** 62:10  
**greed** 9:21  
**Green** 48:23  
**greenhouse** 16:17 20:17 49:22  
**grew** 42:13 58:17,21  
**grossly** 16:15  
**ground** 9:20 17:7  
**groundwater** 9:18 30:20 47:19  
**group** 5:25 6:2,12  
**groups** 23:10  
**grow** 26:10  
**growing** 25:3 39:2  
**guarantees** 48:23  
**guardian** 41:2  
**guided** 28:8  
**guinea** 25:17

---

**H**

---

**habit** 64:5  
**half** 20:9 34:17  
**hand** 6:4,5,8,11 14:23 33:18,22  
 41:7,15 55:18,20 57:19,21,25  
 58:3,5,8,9,11,11 66:13,20,22  
 68:7,8  
**handle** 18:12  
**hands** 68:9  
**happen** 59:24  
**happened** 8:4 34:24 59:24  
**happens** 26:3 59:25  
**happy** 31:16  
**hard** 14:10  
**hardball** 63:19  
**harm** 16:22 23:15 40:17 55:9  
**harmful** 10:5 12:20  
**Harrison** 67:16  
**hazard** 17:14,16 39:23,24  
**hazardous** 7:19 8:15 9:20 16:8  
 16:18 17:5



**hazards** 17:13 40:6 52:7  
**headquartered** 44:19  
**health** 9:21 17:14 21:5 22:15  
 23:15 24:12,13 41:20 43:3  
 47:2 48:5 61:4  
**health-related** 7:23  
**hear** 7:6 13:3 18:4 19:11 24:20  
 24:21 26:21 30:9 54:24 55:24  
 58:14 60:19  
**heard** 18:16 39:13 58:20 61:17  
**hearing** 1:14 2:2,13,16,19,21  
 4:14,18 39:15 54:13 68:12,14  
 69:6 70:8  
**Hearings** 2:11  
**heart** 52:16  
**Heat** 8:15  
**heated** 13:23  
**heavy** 7:20 11:15 12:8 16:18  
 23:14 34:12 37:25 38:8,13,15  
 43:22 50:12,14,15,16,23 55:2  
 55:6 64:21 65:22  
**Heck** 31:6  
**Heinzen** 51:7,8  
**held** 2:19 30:22  
**Hello** 10:9 19:11 27:10 29:22  
 33:25  
**helping** 54:17  
**Hercules** 38:3  
**hereof** 70:5  
**hereto** 70:5  
**hereunto** 70:9  
**HFNH** 46:19  
**hi** 10:9 14:25,25 29:24 58:16  
 67:2  
**Higgins** 34:4  
**high** 2:22 17:4 21:9 29:12 38:12  
 42:10,10,11 45:10,12,12,14,24  
 46:4,11 64:11 68:13,19  
**higher** 21:13 46:2 50:10  
**highlighted** 40:8 42:25  
**highly** 14:5  
**Historically** 66:5  
**history** 22:14 24:11 51:23 65:16  
**hold** 41:19  
**holding** 2:20  
**home** 22:19  
**hometown** 42:14  
**honest** 59:13  
**honor** 22:5 48:21  
**hope** 41:2

**hopefully** 50:18  
**hoping** 29:7  
**horror** 22:24  
**hotspot** 9:24 11:5 12:9 13:14  
 17:2  
**hotspots** 65:10  
**Howard** 1:20 70:3,12  
**Howell** 44:11  
**Hubbard** 1:20 70:3,12  
**Hudson** 10:18,18,24 11:5 12:4,5  
 12:6 14:13 16:19 25:9 26:13  
 30:8,15 31:11,15 51:11 63:12  
 64:6  
**human** 21:4 22:15 23:15 24:12  
 36:25 47:18 56:6,17 57:8 59:8  
**hundred** 8:17 11:12,16 13:22  
 22:23 35:9 37:6,9 46:7 60:21  
 60:24 67:10,12  
**hurt** 55:3,4  
**Husick** 48:10 64:8

---

**I**


---

**I-T-Z-O** 30:4  
**iceberg** 63:10  
**icon** 58:8 68:7  
**identified** 17:15 22:20 51:16  
**identify** 5:25 6:12 35:20 61:13  
**Illinois** 58:17,22  
**illnesses** 17:5  
**imagine** 22:24  
**immediately** 23:6  
**immunizations** 43:5  
**impact** 24:12 39:3 48:19 54:21  
 55:7 59:14 62:16,22 63:2  
**impacted** 22:14 23:6  
**impacting** 16:24  
**impacts** 22:15,16 23:16 48:5  
 62:23  
**implement** 24:6 47:6  
**implore** 14:11 24:13 40:10  
**import** 11:11 47:16 64:16  
**important** 24:2 28:22 67:6 69:2  
**importation** 16:13 26:5  
**importing** 26:4  
**impossible** 60:15  
**impoverished** 40:14  
**impression** 31:18  
**in-** 2:20  
**incidents** 17:4  
**incineration** 40:13

**incinerator** 30:16 63:12  
**incinerators** 30:14  
**included** 24:2 34:11 44:24  
**includes** 29:4 45:19 46:10 48:18  
 56:21  
**including** 14:13 19:23 28:4,9,16  
 28:17 42:20 49:9 56:22  
**incomplete** 11:19  
**incorporates** 46:17  
**increases** 43:15  
**Incredibly** 30:25  
**incremental** 34:14  
**independent** 8:4 9:2  
**India** 44:20  
**indicate** 15:14  
**indicating** 6:19  
**industrial** 2:24 10:15 11:10  
 12:4 19:19 26:13 38:5 39:3  
 44:18 45:25 48:9 52:10  
**industries** 16:23 38:7 51:12  
**industry** 17:10 19:15 47:16,25  
 48:5 53:4 66:8,8  
**inevitable** 37:2  
**infamous** 39:4  
**information** 3:18 5:18 8:6,7,12  
 15:11,16 67:9,17  
**inhaled** 19:3  
**Initiative** 19:20,21 49:7  
**inorganic** 38:4  
**inspire** 29:8  
**Institute** 9:23 11:5 19:16  
**insurance** 16:11  
**integrated** 44:16  
**Intelligence** 19:17  
**intent** 48:17,21  
**interest** 27:25  
**interesting** 54:13  
**interests** 66:8  
**International** 19:20  
**internet** 6:8 58:8 68:6  
**introduce** 17:10 47:21  
**invested** 65:4  
**involved** 19:14 44:13  
**involves** 3:6  
**ironic** 22:19  
**Island** 31:6  
**issue** 3:24 4:3 14:2 24:13 40:15  
 62:15 64:25 65:10 66:15 67:25  
**issue's** 67:23  
**issued** 62:11

**issues** 7:23 28:15 35:23 36:6  
 60:2  
**issuing** 4:5  
**It's** 67:11  
**Ithaca** 19:16 38:24,24 59:12  
**Itzo** 29:22,24,24 30:4,6,12 33:4  
 33:5,6,9

---

**J**


---

**James** 36:12,13  
**January** 1:15 4:15  
**Japan** 39:3,6  
**Jenkins** 48:11  
**Jersey** 8:25  
**job** 36:16 59:18  
**Johnstown** 38:11  
**join** 35:17 58:4 66:20 68:18,20  
 68:23 69:2,4  
**joined** 5:5 6:3 14:19 17:22,24  
 27:3,7 41:8,9,14 55:16,19  
 57:13,15,18 58:4,8 68:5,6  
**Jorge** 21:24 22:6  
**Joslin** 27:21,21,23  
**journey** 39:6  
**judge** 2:9  
**June** 58:19  
**jurisdiction** 57:5  
**justice** 39:25 40:15 47:7 48:18  
**justified** 4:9

---

**K**


---

**Kathleen** 19:9,14  
**keep** 36:8,10 66:6  
**key** 20:19  
**kids** 24:24  
**killed** 42:11  
**kind** 15:8 16:3,6 40:16  
**Kirsten** 11:23  
**know** 6:6 9:11 10:19 14:20 17:23  
 19:3 27:5 42:16,18,23,25 43:4  
 43:6,11 51:21 52:2,4 54:18,20  
 54:25 58:5 59:3,13 63:15,19  
 67:18 68:11  
**knowing** 12:19 22:13 33:3  
**knowledge** 56:13 57:3  
**known** 3:13,17 7:21 11:15 17:2  
 18:17 22:18 23:15 66:2  
**Koizumi** 38:18,20,22  
**Kravitsky** 41:13

**L**

**L.L.C** 2:14  
**lab** 28:12  
**laden** 10:18  
**Lake** 46:25  
**land** 20:24 21:7,18 22:19 25:6  
 28:20 40:14,18 49:17  
**landfill** 49:24  
**landfills** 28:23 49:19,20 50:2  
**landslide** 47:12  
**language** 39:16  
**lapsed** 61:8  
**large** 8:18,20 30:7 33:5 45:14  
 46:5  
**largest** 25:13 30:13  
**Laura** 66:11,12,13,14 67:22,23  
**law** 2:9 47:6,8 62:22  
**laws** 11:19  
**leach** 9:18 30:23  
**lead** 21:4 43:22  
**leaders** 31:8  
**Leadership** 3:16 20:19  
**leaks** 37:2,8  
**learn** 43:4 48:8  
**learned** 41:24  
**leave** 60:10  
**left** 22:25 23:24  
**legislation** 11:24 48:18  
**legislative** 2:15 4:14  
**lengthy** 6:23  
**lessons** 48:9  
**let's** 10:15 13:20 29:21 31:21  
**letter** 21:20  
**level** 13:10 24:3,3 58:24 59:17  
**levels** 42:9,11 45:11,24  
**license** 48:20  
**licensing** 48:20 56:16 57:7  
**life** 23:16 33:15 64:11  
**limit** 6:17 50:22  
**limits** 29:4 44:21 45:3 66:3  
**Linden** 8:24 9:3,7  
**line** 3:4,6,8 5:24 6:5,7,15  
 14:20 17:23 18:2 27:5,17  
 29:19 33:21 41:11,16 45:4  
 55:18,21 57:14,16,20 60:8  
 61:12 66:23  
**lines** 29:18 45:7  
**link** 5:18  
**linked** 7:22

**liquid** 45:9 52:19  
**liquids** 35:16  
**Lisa** 46:23,24  
**Lisk** 53:20  
**list** 14:18 17:21 41:7  
**little** 51:10  
**live** 10:10 15:2 22:6 30:18  
 33:12 40:10 54:14,15 56:4,4  
 61:16 63:14 64:2 65:3 67:8,18  
**lived** 12:18,18  
**livestock** 55:4  
**living** 66:9  
**LLC** 1:13  
**loads** 37:8,11  
**loan** 44:25  
**local** 31:8 33:14 51:12,13 61:5  
**logged** 28:12 29:15,17  
**long** 9:19 12:10 17:3 31:6 64:3  
**long-lasting** 22:16  
**long-term** 16:9 25:19 28:18  
 58:18  
**longer** 42:7 43:6 46:13 49:17  
**longtime** 20:3  
**look** 23:4  
**looking** 25:12,12  
**lost** 52:23 63:20  
**loudly** 7:4  
**love** 42:15 48:10  
**low** 29:12  
**Luckily** 59:25  
**lying** 10:6  
**Lyndon** 9:10

**M**

**M.S.A** 60:14  
**macro** 61:5  
**mail** 5:2  
**mailing** 5:6,8,18  
**main** 13:8,19  
**Maine** 40:21 41:24 42:5  
**maintain** 16:2  
**maintenance** 16:5  
**major** 59:8 60:2  
**making** 3:21  
**malodors** 36:21  
**management** 1:9 3:9 16:6 28:5,15  
 37:18 40:12 56:12  
**manager** 56:20 57:2  
**mandated** 47:7  
**manufacture** 2:24

<b>manufacturers</b> 12:2	<b>milk</b> 42:8
<b>map</b> 25:12	<b>million</b> 9:4 10:17
<b>maps</b> 23:4,13,17	<b>Minamata</b> 39:5
<b>March</b> 4:23,25 5:3 19:7	<b>mind</b> 48:8
<b>Marketing</b> 44:8	<b>minimum</b> 24:5
<b>markets</b> 37:17,20	<b>minute</b> 6:20,21 27:18,20
<b>Mass</b> 8:24	<b>minutes</b> 6:18 12:15 43:20
<b>Masso</b> 7:15,16 10:7	<b>misconception</b> 39:17
<b>Master's</b> 41:19	<b>miserably</b> 65:8
<b>material</b> 20:4 34:19 37:3 50:17	<b>misinformed</b> 10:5
<b>Matt</b> 44:6	<b>mispronounce</b> 6:13
<b>matter</b> 1:5 7:18 16:17	<b>mission</b> 40:3
<b>Matthew</b> 44:5 57:17,18,20	<b>Mississippi</b> 42:13
<b>McBride</b> 1:17 2:3,5,8 10:7,11	<b>mitigates</b> 4:9
12:14,23 13:4 14:16 17:19	<b>mitigation</b> 20:22 23:19 28:16,19
18:5 19:8,12 21:23 22:4 24:17	<b>mixed</b> 51:15
24:21 27:2,11,16 29:14,23	<b>mixing</b> 45:12,15,24
30:2,5,11 33:4,6,17 34:2	<b>mobile</b> 18:17,20
36:11 38:17,21 41:5 43:19	<b>Mohawk</b> 65:14
44:4 46:22 49:3 51:6 52:13	<b>Molly</b> 1:17 2:8
53:20 54:7,11 55:15,25 57:11	<b>money</b> 60:5,6
58:15 61:7,11,18 63:22 66:10	<b>monitor</b> 29:2
67:4,21	<b>monitored</b> 56:24
<b>mean</b> 62:18,21	<b>monitoring</b> 24:7 57:4 60:13
<b>meaning</b> 25:24 47:14	<b>month</b> 65:22
<b>meaningful</b> 16:10	<b>months</b> 9:9 65:15
<b>Mediation</b> 2:11	<b>Moreau</b> 7:25 9:24 10:15 11:7
<b>medical</b> 7:20	12:4,8,19 13:6 14:15 15:2
<b>medicine</b> 41:21	22:7,12,14,22 23:9,12,18,23
<b>meet</b> 29:3 65:24	24:23,24,25 26:6,8,12 29:25
<b>meeting</b> 23:8 24:7 65:19	30:18,20,25 31:11 47:12 51:10
<b>meets</b> 65:21	52:6,17 56:5 58:18 61:23,25
<b>meltdowns</b> 60:2	63:7 67:15
<b>member</b> 19:21 23:10 61:21	<b>mother</b> 13:7
<b>members</b> 26:23 68:20	<b>motivated</b> 9:21
<b>Mennis</b> 54:8,9,12	<b>motivation</b> 47:25
<b>mentioned</b> 13:13 14:7 16:25	<b>motive</b> 54:4
<b>merely</b> 37:19	<b>move</b> 27:8 55:22
<b>met</b> 63:14	<b>moved</b> 22:11 42:15 58:19
<b>metal</b> 29:4,5 50:16,24	<b>multi-</b> 44:24
<b>metals</b> 7:20 11:15 12:8 14:7	<b>multi-stage</b> 46:2
16:18 23:14 28:12 29:3 32:23	<b>multiple</b> 28:15 29:5
34:12,12,15,21 37:25 38:9,15	<b>municipal</b> 28:8 51:17
43:22 50:12,14,15 55:2,6	<b>Murray</b> 53:20
64:21 65:23	<b>mute</b> 27:12,17 29:18
<b>methane</b> 49:21,21,25 50:2,5	
<b>methods</b> 23:20	<b>N</b>
<b>micro</b> 50:8	<b>name</b> 2:8 5:23 6:4,13,14 13:6
<b>miles</b> 14:17,22 49:4,5 56:9	14:25 17:21 19:13 22:5 24:23
67:10,12	30:3 33:19 38:23 41:19 46:24

52:15 56:2 61:16 66:24 67:2 70:10 <b>name's</b> 36:13 <b>nasty</b> 24:11 <b>national</b> 9:22 11:4 33:13 47:24 <b>natural</b> 59:18 64:10 <b>nature</b> 60:7 <b>navy</b> 59:19 <b>navy's</b> 59:25 <b>near</b> 12:21 48:3 <b>nearby</b> 9:15 16:24 <b>necessary</b> 64:11 <b>need</b> 4:6 11:19 13:24 18:20 27:12 33:13 40:16 43:16 64:14 64:15 <b>needed</b> 20:14 28:19 <b>needs</b> 15:4 16:23 28:21 32:25 48:20 <b>neg</b> 59:8 <b>negative</b> 60:9 <b>negatively</b> 22:14 <b>neighbor</b> 22:22 23:21,23 <b>neighbor's</b> 47:2 <b>neighboring</b> 46:25 <b>neighbors</b> 23:6 55:11 <b>nervous</b> 60:9 <b>Network</b> 23:9 61:22 <b>neutralize</b> 20:25 <b>never</b> 7:24 8:4 31:5 53:10 66:2 <b>new</b> 1:2,8,12 2:9,24 5:9,12 8:25 9:25 10:10,19 11:24 12:6,9 15:8 20:19 25:11,14 29:10,25 31:12,13 32:14 33:14 36:2 38:24 42:15,15,23 44:13,21 47:6,17 48:13,22,23 50:19 56:4,25 57:3 59:11 60:6,6 61:17 62:3 64:2,4 67:10 70:2 <b>Newark</b> 8:24 9:3 <b>newest</b> 36:16 <b>Nicques</b> 17:20,21,24 <b>night</b> 68:18 <b>nine</b> 22:23 45:23 60:18,18,25 <b>nineteen</b> 39:9 <b>nineties</b> 39:2 <b>ninety-nine</b> 60:18 <b>ninety-nine-</b> 45:22 <b>Ninety-nine-point</b> 60:25 <b>nitrous</b> 20:15 <b>Norlight</b> 64:9 65:4,6,8,13,20 <b>Norlight's</b> 65:16	<b>north</b> 54:15 67:11,13 <b>Northeast</b> 29:8 <b>Northeastern</b> 44:10 46:16 <b>note</b> 22:25 24:4 <b>notice</b> 4:13,14,16,17 <b>November</b> 9:6 10:23 22:12 <b>nuclear</b> 59:2,4,19,25 60:2 <b>number</b> 6:16 15:20 30:17,18 51:14 52:10 <b>nurse</b> 13:7 <b>nutrients</b> 50:15 <hr/> <b>O</b> <hr/> <b>object</b> 56:15 57:6 <b>objection</b> 47:9 <b>occur</b> 45:15 <b>occurrence</b> 16:7 <b>oceans</b> 18:19 <b>odor</b> 23:19 28:25 34:9 37:12 46:19 <b>odorous</b> 38:10 <b>odors</b> 23:16 37:5 <b>offer</b> 57:24 <b>offers</b> 16:10 20:22 21:6 <b>Office</b> 2:11 5:10 36:18 <b>offices</b> 44:19 <b>Official</b> 1:7,10 <b>officially</b> 23:10 <b>oftentimes</b> 67:5 <b>oh</b> 13:2 27:9 30:2 61:19 <b>Okay</b> 10:12 12:17 13:5 18:2,5,6 22:4 26:23 27:8 30:2,5,6,9 33:9,9,22 38:22 41:12 55:22 56:2 66:14,21 68:2 <b>old</b> 39:9 <b>once</b> 10:20 17:14 50:18 65:22,22 <b>ongoing</b> 11:19 <b>open</b> 60:11 <b>openly</b> 22:16 <b>operate</b> 2:24 16:2 48:13 63:12 65:13 <b>operates</b> 21:9 <b>operating</b> 30:15 46:6 59:21 <b>operation</b> 3:5 16:5 36:23 45:12 48:15 54:20 56:16,17 57:7,8 <b>operational</b> 9:8,10,11 <b>operations</b> 15:22 <b>opinion</b> 47:13 <b>opinionated</b> 67:7 <b>opportunities</b> 65:24
---	--

**opportunity** 4:19 19:7 38:25  
 46:20 57:9 66:17,19 68:3,15  
 68:17  
**oppose** 18:9 23:12  
**opposed** 10:13 23:11 24:10  
**oral** 4:22 5:20 6:25  
**orally** 21:21  
**order** 5:23 7:12 24:6 35:20  
 65:10  
**orders** 59:22  
**ordinary** 51:16  
**organic** 20:4 28:17 50:8 58:21  
**organizations** 39:22  
**organizer** 39:12  
**originally** 59:11  
**Orlando** 66:11,12,13 67:22,23  
**Orlando's** 66:15  
**overall** 59:9 61:4  
**overlook** 26:7,8  
**overwhelming** 26:22  
**owners** 67:8  
**ox** 44:25  
**oxidation** 21:14  
**oxide** 20:15 56:21  
**oxidizer** 38:3 44:10,25 45:8,21  
 45:23 46:10,15,18,21 56:23  
**oxygen** 29:12

---

**P**

---

**P** 31:25 46:9  
**P-A-U-L** 30:4  
**P-F-A-S** 11:13  
**P.A** 44:19  
**P.C.B** 10:17 12:10  
**P.C.B.s** 10:19 11:2 25:13 62:5  
**P.C.C** 44:9,9,15,24 45:17 46:18  
**P.F.A** 48:11  
**P.F.A.F** 11:24  
**P.F.A.S** 25:13,16 26:9 32:2,12  
 32:18,23 35:14 42:9 46:13  
 54:25 55:6 65:7  
**P.F.O.A** 23:14 45:19  
**P.F.O.S** 45:20  
**p.m** 1:15 2:2,22 68:13 69:6  
**P.O** 5:12  
**Padron** 21:24 22:2,5,6  
**Page** 70:5  
**pages** 59:20,21 70:7  
**paid** 28:25  
**papers** 19:5

**paralysis** 8:3,14 18:23 32:17  
**parameters** 15:12  
**park** 10:15 11:11 12:4 26:13  
**part** 1:8,12 23:22 26:20 47:8,24  
 55:2 59:18 62:4 64:22  
**participating** 44:2  
**particular** 40:13  
**particularly** 50:9  
**particulate** 16:17  
**particulates** 32:13 46:19  
**parts** 11:6 43:15  
**pathogens** 7:20 20:25 28:17  
**pathway** 49:13  
**pathways** 49:15  
**pattern** 47:25  
**Patterson** 44:11  
**Paul** 29:24  
**pay** 62:3  
**peer** 32:10  
**pending** 2:17 4:22  
**people** 6:16 18:17 47:15 52:17  
 53:3 55:11 56:9 58:3,10 59:11  
 63:4,5,14 64:23  
**people's** 64:16  
**percent** 16:14 34:17 37:8 45:23  
 50:4 59:5 60:18,21,24,25  
**percentage** 35:13 47:17  
**period** 4:15,23 65:12  
**permanent** 50:7  
**permit** 1:4,6,10 3:7,9,11,22,25  
 4:4,5 15:4 18:10 22:9,10  
 23:25 24:13 44:14 53:4,8  
 55:13 62:11  
**permits** 3:7 43:24  
**permitting** 28:9  
**perplexed** 58:22  
**person** 2:21 40:11 58:11 66:22  
 68:12  
**personal** 27:25 48:2  
**personally** 18:9  
**perspective** 57:10  
**pertains** 40:18  
**PFAS** 7:21,22 11:13,18,19 12:7,8  
 12:11,19 14:8 15:14,18,24  
 16:18 18:24 20:22,25 21:8,16  
 21:19 28:18 34:11,23 35:3,7  
 35:11,12 39:24 40:9 42:2,7,12  
 42:24 43:3,6,7,10,11,17 45:19  
 46:9 49:18 50:8 51:4 53:17  
 60:17

<p> <b>pharmaceutical</b> 41:21  <b>phase</b> 3:3,5 28:24  <b>phases</b> 3:3  <b>PhD</b> 40:7  <b>phone</b> 14:20 17:23,25 18:2 27:5  27:7 33:20,21 41:8,9,10,14  55:17,17,19,20 57:13,14,15,16  57:18,19 58:5 66:20,21,22  68:5  <b>physical</b> 22:20  <b>picked</b> 8:8  <b>picture</b> 34:22  <b>pig</b> 25:17  <b>pigment</b> 38:4  <b>Pittsburgh</b> 44:19  <b>place</b> 39:21 46:6 54:4 67:11  70:4  <b>plan</b> 20:20 22:20 40:12,18 59:20  63:17  <b>planet</b> 50:5  <b>planning</b> 7:25 8:5 22:13,22  23:18,23 28:9 60:22  <b>plans</b> 8:17 31:2 40:22 54:19  <b>plant</b> 8:19 9:6,15 10:15 11:10  12:21 13:18,21 31:3 38:4,6  39:15 40:3 42:15,17 43:12  48:15 50:15 51:13,17,25 56:20  57:2  <b>Plant-based</b> 7:16  <b>plants</b> 8:24 11:20 20:7,10 21:3  21:18 51:19  <b>play</b> 25:8,15,17 63:19  <b>please</b> 5:25 6:4,7,12,14,22 7:3  12:12,17 14:11,19 17:16,22,25  22:25 27:4,6 29:18 30:3 33:8  33:16,18,20 36:10 41:9,14,16  42:16 55:17,19 57:13,15,18  66:25  <b>pleased</b> 61:20  <b>plentiful</b> 36:19  <b>plus</b> 28:3  <b>point</b> 9:4 10:17 22:23 32:21  45:23 48:6 50:13 52:24 57:22  60:18  <b>points</b> 12:3  <b>poisoning</b> 42:2  <b>poisons</b> 63:13  <b>policies</b> 47:5  <b>policy</b> 23:22,23  <b>political</b> 8:3 31:8 </p>	<p> <b>politicians</b> 33:10  <b>pollutant</b> 25:25 37:24 50:16  <b>pollutants</b> 47:18,21 50:8 52:10  <b>polluted</b> 62:4  <b>polluter</b> 30:17  <b>polluters</b> 24:12 31:5,9,19 33:14  <b>pollution</b> 11:3 22:15 23:19  24:11 25:11 39:4 44:16 47:3  47:10 48:10,12,20  <b>populated</b> 11:21,22  <b>population</b> 17:3  <b>portable</b> 43:16  <b>positive</b> 47:14 62:15 67:9,19  <b>possibility</b> 37:25  <b>Post</b> 4:17  <b>poster</b> 62:25  <b>postmarked</b> 5:3  <b>potent</b> 37:12 49:22  <b>potential</b> 21:7 39:23,24 47:3  49:23  <b>potentially</b> 35:23  <b>pounds</b> 10:17 37:7,9  <b>powerful</b> 62:6,6  <b>Powhida</b> 24:18,20,22,23  <b>practically</b> 53:6  <b>practice</b> 28:20 40:20  <b>pre-scheduled</b> 65:23  <b>predatory</b> 48:3  <b>prepare</b> 62:16  <b>prepared</b> 30:6  <b>presence</b> 40:8  <b>presentation</b> 34:8  <b>presents</b> 16:15  <b>preset</b> 65:25  <b>presiding</b> 2:12  <b>press</b> 14:20 17:22,25 27:4,6  33:20 41:10,14 55:17,19 57:13  57:15,19 66:20 68:5  <b>pressing</b> 6:6,9 41:8 58:6  <b>pressure</b> 8:3 60:9  <b>pretreated</b> 20:25 38:4  <b>pretty</b> 13:17 49:3 63:20 67:20  <b>prevent</b> 29:5 37:11 66:4  <b>prevents</b> 20:9  <b>previous</b> 13:9  <b>primary</b> 39:5 47:25  <b>principle</b> 39:25  <b>print</b> 60:6  <b>prior</b> 4:5 15:3 16:22 37:22,22  <b>priority</b> 39:5 </p>
---	--

**private** 60:4  
**problem** 8:19 11:22 26:4,10  
 29:20 53:10 64:21  
**problematic** 34:20 55:2,5  
**procedures** 59:21  
**proceed** 17:9  
**proceedings** 70:7  
**process** 3:4,6,8,9 15:11 21:17  
 25:17 29:12 32:7,22 38:2 44:8  
 45:10 49:11 50:7,9 56:17 57:8  
 69:2  
**processes** 15:22  
**processing** 44:12 60:23  
**produce** 42:7  
**produced** 15:15  
**producing** 47:20 64:17  
**product** 2:25 3:14 9:17 13:25  
 14:5 25:19 37:15 47:20  
**production** 36:7 45:4,6 50:9  
**products** 13:24 35:15 45:13  
**professional** 49:7  
**Professor** 34:4  
**professors** 53:19  
**profit** 31:9,22 48:2 54:4  
**Program** 49:6  
**project** 8:6 9:3 15:6,8 17:8  
 20:5,21 22:13,19 24:11,14  
 25:2 27:24,25 28:14,22,24,25  
 29:4,7 34:6 44:12 47:11,15  
 49:11 50:18 52:17,19,21,25  
 53:23 54:5 62:24 63:7  
**projects** 28:8 39:20 48:13 53:25  
**promise** 31:10  
**promotes** 31:23  
**promoting** 40:12  
**proof** 58:25  
**proposal** 3:12 44:10,24 56:6  
**proposed** 8:23 13:18 15:18 19:4  
 39:15,19 40:3  
**proposes** 2:23  
**proposing** 28:24 56:24  
**proprietary** 32:7  
**protect** 31:10 53:3  
**protected** 31:18  
**protecting** 53:2  
**protection** 3:17 20:20 32:16  
 47:8 48:19  
**prove** 25:18 26:18,24  
**proven** 25:24,24  
**provide** 2:16 4:18 8:10,12 25:23

50:21  
**provided** 15:11,14 44:9,21  
**provisions** 24:2  
**public** 1:14 2:12,15,16,21 3:22  
 4:14,15,19 24:8 41:20 43:3  
 47:13 59:6 60:3 68:20  
**published** 4:15,17  
**Publow** 63:23,24,25,25 64:2  
**Purdue** 14:24,25 15:2  
**purported** 3:19  
**purpose** 2:15  
**Pursuant** 1:6,10 3:14  
**put** 52:17 58:2  
**pyrolised** 21:11  
**pyrolysis** 19:23 20:8 21:9,16  
 25:16 29:11 31:24 32:11,22  
 34:25 35:7 45:2 50:10 51:25  
 60:17  
**pyrolyzed** 38:2

---

**Q**


---

**quality** 23:15 33:15 64:11  
**quarter** 9:8  
**Queeners** 51:10  
**Queensbury** 46:25 48:11 56:4,20  
**question** 2:18 4:20 67:8  
**questionable** 40:5  
**questions** 67:6  
**quick** 63:21

---

**R**


---

**radiation** 59:5  
**raining** 63:13  
**raise** 6:4,5,8,10 33:18 41:7  
 55:18,20 57:19,25 58:3,5,9  
 66:20 68:8  
**raised** 14:22 33:22 41:15 57:21  
 58:10,11 66:13,22 68:9  
**raises** 40:4  
**raising** 24:24  
**Ralston** 36:12,13,14  
**range** 44:18  
**ranked** 30:16  
**rapid** 39:4  
**rates** 22:15 33:12  
**ratio** 46:3  
**Ravina** 51:9  
**ravine** 26:14  
**Raybrook** 5:12  
**re-read** 5:6



<p> <b>reach</b> 47:4  <b>reactions</b> 45:15 46:5  <b>read</b> 22:3 42:22 56:11  <b>readily</b> 10:20 21:12  <b>Ready</b> 2:3  <b>real</b> 58:17  <b>really</b> 32:7 33:2 34:17,22 42:17  42:19 54:21 55:11  <b>reapply</b> 62:14  <b>reason</b> 15:24 52:6 62:22  <b>recall</b> 33:17  <b>recarbonizing</b> 20:13  <b>received</b> 3:18 4:25  <b>reckless</b> 47:22  <b>recognized</b> 30:21  <b>recognizing</b> 37:20  <b>reconsider</b> 40:23  <b>record</b> 7:7,10 40:5 56:14 57:4  62:19 63:3 64:25 68:24 69:5  70:7  <b>recorded</b> 7:5  <b>records</b> 24:9  <b>red</b> 23:5  <b>reduce</b> 20:15 21:7 41:25 48:19  51:11  <b>reduced</b> 34:16  <b>reduces</b> 20:13 51:3  <b>reducing</b> 20:16 46:11 50:23  <b>reeked</b> 59:6  <b>refer</b> 45:16  <b>Reform</b> 53:25  <b>refuse</b> 32:3 55:8,13  <b>regain</b> 53:24  <b>regard</b> 9:21  <b>regarding</b> 2:13 3:19 4:11 46:9  <b>regards</b> 13:9  <b>region</b> 5:10 9:19,23 11:4 16:25  36:17 64:10,16 65:7  <b>register</b> 5:21 47:8  <b>registered</b> 5:22,23 57:23  <b>registration</b> 7:13  <b>regulations</b> 1:8,11 17:15 53:9  53:12  <b>regulator</b> 28:11  <b>reject</b> 32:19 48:20  <b>rejection</b> 47:15  <b>relate</b> 15:21  <b>related</b> 11:24 35:15 48:19  <b>relative</b> 22:8  <b>releasing</b> 16:8 </p>	<p> <b>rely</b> 63:8,9  <b>remain</b> 30:8 50:13  <b>remainder</b> 46:15  <b>remains</b> 35:20  <b>remarks</b> 36:14 43:20  <b>remediation</b> 34:13  <b>remedy</b> 10:25  <b>remember</b> 61:23  <b>remind</b> 6:24  <b>removal</b> 14:4 45:18 46:18  <b>remove</b> 10:25 11:18 33:13  <b>removed</b> 21:2  <b>renewed</b> 34:21  <b>Repeated</b> 30:22  <b>replace</b> 25:12  <b>report</b> 42:18 43:2  <b>reported</b> 1:20 70:4  <b>Reporter</b> 2:4 70:12  <b>reports</b> 28:12  <b>represent</b> 6:2  <b>representative</b> 18:21 39:13  <b>representing</b> 6:12 16:14  <b>represents</b> 39:20  <b>requested</b> 3:18 54:23  <b>require</b> 37:21 62:15  <b>required</b> 5:21 29:2  <b>requirements</b> 3:14 4:8 46:8  <b>requires</b> 3:12  <b>requiring</b> 62:21  <b>research</b> 11:17 28:18 32:15  41:22 51:21  <b>reside</b> 13:6  <b>residence</b> 45:16  <b>resident</b> 24:23 47:2  <b>residential</b> 13:15  <b>residents</b> 31:17 44:2 48:4,7,24  <b>residual</b> 35:21  <b>residuals</b> 28:4,10,15  <b>resolved</b> 36:6 67:23  <b>resonance</b> 46:4  <b>resounding</b> 47:14  <b>resources</b> 36:15 49:9 64:11  <b>responsibility</b> 40:17 54:3  <b>responsible</b> 16:12 17:13  <b>rest</b> 52:11  <b>restore</b> 62:9  <b>result</b> 36:18 43:6 46:13  <b>resulting</b> 15:16 18:13 47:9  <b>results</b> 8:10 9:12 15:14 32:4,6  52:21 </p>
--	---

<p><b>resuming</b> 38:13  <b>retired</b> 28:6  <b>returning</b> 20:10  <b>review</b> 3:23 8:4 34:6 50:20  <b>reviewed</b> 19:5 32:10 34:5 56:5  <b>reviewing</b> 20:5  <b>revoke</b> 62:11  <b>rich</b> 64:10  <b>riddled</b> 14:6  <b>right</b> 23:5 27:14,16 33:16,16  34:2 48:25 49:16 63:4 67:4  <b>risk</b> 17:8 41:25 47:19 50:23  51:4,13 56:9  <b>River</b> 10:18 12:4,5 16:19 26:13  30:9 31:11 64:6 65:14  <b>rivers</b> 18:19  <b>road</b> 13:17 22:6 24:25  <b>roads</b> 37:2,10  <b>role</b> 37:21  <b>roots</b> 64:3  <b>roughly</b> 20:9  <b>roulette</b> 25:15  <b>Route</b> 5:11  <b>rule</b> 53:6  <b>rules</b> 1:7,11 53:12  <b>run</b> 9:12 56:14  <b>runoff</b> 26:12  <b>rural</b> 40:15  <b>Russ</b> 67:2</p>	<p>25:23 26:1,18 27:1 28:1 29:1  29:2 30:1 31:1,2,6,7,13,20,21  31:22 32:1,5,9,15,19,24,25  33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1,4,23 37:1  38:1 39:1,19 40:1,3,24 41:1  42:1 43:1 44:1,12,22 45:1,5  46:1 47:1,10 48:1 49:1 50:1  50:11 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1  55:1 56:1,6,12,16 57:1,7 58:1  58:20 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1,7  62:12,15,18,25 63:1,18 64:1  65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1  <b>saratogabiochar2021@dec.ny.gov</b>  5:14  <b>save</b> 55:13  <b>Savello</b> 57:17,18,20  <b>saw</b> 25:5  <b>saying</b> 42:16  <b>Scalability</b> 8:13  <b>scale</b> 15:11,21  <b>Scarsdale</b> 31:6  <b>School</b> 2:22 24:25 67:15,16  68:13,19  <b>schools</b> 13:15  <b>science</b> 41:20 66:7  <b>Sciences</b> 34:5  <b>scientific</b> 19:5  <b>scientist</b> 41:23 53:21  <b>screen</b> 5:4,15 6:19 7:8 58:2,7  68:7  <b>scrubber</b> 46:17 56:23  <b>scrubbers</b> 59:16 60:12  <b>sealed</b> 37:11  <b>seals</b> 60:6,11  <b>second</b> 22:2 46:14  <b>secondary</b> 39:6  <b>secret</b> 32:6  <b>section</b> 3:15,15 46:10 48:22  <b>security</b> 16:11  <b>see</b> 14:17,22 17:20 29:20 33:22  41:6,15 52:6 54:17 55:9 67:22  68:8  <b>seeking</b> 31:22  <b>seen</b> 22:17  <b>Senator</b> 11:23  <b>send</b> 67:10,15  <b>sending</b> 38:5  <b>senior</b> 13:16  <b>sent</b> 4:24,24 21:20 49:19 61:6  <b>separates</b> 21:11</p>
<b>S</b>	
<p><b>s</b> 31:10 35:14 44:24 59:21 64:25  65:22  <b>S.O.P</b> 59:21  <b>saddened</b> 43:4  <b>safe</b> 25:19 36:10 52:20 56:14  58:25 60:22  <b>safely</b> 11:18 16:2 21:7  <b>safety</b> 9:22 15:5,7  <b>Sai</b> 56:11  <b>sale</b> 47:20  <b>Sales</b> 44:8  <b>sample</b> 8:9,10,12  <b>Sara</b> 55:23 56:2  <b>Saratoga</b> 1:1,12 2:1,13 3:1 4:1  5:1 6:1 7:1,23 8:1,7,16 9:1  9:14,17 10:1,3,14 11:1,9 12:1  13:1 14:1 15:1,5 16:1 17:1  18:1,10 19:1 20:1,5,6,21 21:1  21:6 22:1,8 23:1,21 24:1 25:1</p>	

<p> <b>sequestered</b> 9:16  <b>sequestration</b> 28:19  <b>series</b> 8:23 39:8  <b>serious</b> 11:22 40:4 51:13  <b>seriously</b> 26:16 48:12  <b>service</b> 28:8  <b>services</b> 2:12  <b>serving</b> 38:6  <b>session</b> 2:19 4:21  <b>set</b> 11:3 31:5,9 42:8  <b>seven</b> 8:17 9:9 11:11,16 13:22          66:23 68:10  <b>seventies</b> 39:2  <b>seventy</b> 36:24 37:6 38:8 50:4  <b>sewage</b> 7:17,18 8:2,15,20,23          10:4 11:12,13 12:7 13:20 14:3          15:15 16:13 18:22 19:24 31:2          32:2 35:24 36:24 37:9,14          38:13 39:17,24 40:6,13,19,22          41:25 48:13 52:4,19 53:7,22          56:7,17 57:8 67:10,12  <b>sewer</b> 51:18,20  <b>shadow</b> 25:18 26:18  <b>shady</b> 33:10  <b>Shannon</b> 57:12,12,14  <b>share</b> 22:7 24:4 32:3 57:10  <b>shared</b> 23:17 32:10 41:2  <b>shelve</b> 9:3  <b>ship</b> 9:15  <b>Shitty</b> 33:9  <b>shop</b> 31:5,9  <b>short</b> 36:19 56:5  <b>short-term</b> 66:8  <b>shorter</b> 35:14  <b>show</b> 26:21 32:25 65:21 66:7  <b>shown</b> 21:3  <b>shows</b> 47:13  <b>shrinking</b> 66:6  <b>Sierra</b> 18:8 42:18  <b>signal</b> 48:7  <b>similar</b> 11:8 38:7  <b>simply</b> 17:6 36:6  <b>single</b> 45:3 59:5  <b>sir</b> 44:5  <b>Sisson</b> 22:6  <b>sit</b> 23:5 49:24  <b>site</b> 9:25,25 12:7 22:18,20          26:14 30:13 31:4 62:11 63:17  <b>sites</b> 13:14 25:14 30:22 49:10          64:9       </p>	<p> <b>situation</b> 11:8 58:23 60:17  <b>six</b> 2:21 11:17 68:13  <b>sixty</b> 9:4  <b>sixty-five</b> 22:23  <b>size</b> 8:12 15:13  <b>skip</b> 64:21  <b>slammed</b> 14:10  <b>slew</b> 23:14  <b>slide</b> 58:2  <b>slippery</b> 63:10  <b>slow-release</b> 20:7  <b>slowly</b> 7:4  <b>sludge</b> 7:17,19 8:2,15,21 10:4          11:12,13 12:7 13:20 14:3          15:15 16:13 18:22 19:24 20:16          34:18 35:12,24 36:24 37:10,14          38:13 39:17,24 40:6,14,19,23          41:25 42:2,9 48:13 52:4,19          53:7,15,22  <b>small</b> 8:9 15:10 35:13 58:8,21          68:6  <b>smell</b> 36:25 37:3,12  <b>smelled</b> 38:12  <b>smells</b> 7:19  <b>so-called</b> 56:7 57:9  <b>soil</b> 9:18 10:22 14:9 20:12          26:10 30:20 34:20 35:25 36:5          36:10 38:12 42:3 50:24 53:20          53:22  <b>soils</b> 16:20 20:13 21:3  <b>solid</b> 1:9 3:8 16:2,5 37:18          40:12  <b>solidarity</b> 26:22  <b>solids</b> 20:23  <b>solution</b> 39:18 49:12 51:2  <b>Solutions</b> 1:1,13 2:1,14 3:1 4:1          5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1,14          11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1          17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1          22:9 23:1,21 24:1 25:1 26:1          27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1          33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1,23 37:1          38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1          44:1,10,12 45:1 46:1,17 47:1          48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1          54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1          60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1          66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1  <b>solve</b> 8:19  <b>somebody</b> 58:17,21 60:16 64:13       </p>
---	---

**sophisticated** 62:7  
**sorry** 12:12,13 19:13 27:15  
 56:19  
**sort** 36:2  
**sought** 15:5  
**sources** 27:12 36:19,20  
**south** 2:22 10:10 14:14 51:10  
 68:12,19  
**SOX** 34:9  
**speak** 5:24 6:10,17 7:3 39:10  
 46:21 52:12 57:23 61:20  
**speaker** 7:14 10:8 12:24 14:17  
 14:23,24 17:20 18:3 19:9  
 21:24 24:18 27:3,9,19,21  
 33:23 36:12 38:18 41:6,13  
 44:5 46:23 51:7 52:13 54:8  
 55:16,23 57:12 61:11 63:23  
 66:11  
**speakers** 5:22 7:11,12 13:9 15:3  
 54:25 57:23 68:15  
**speaking** 5:25 6:11 29:23 41:22  
 61:22  
**specific** 24:7 34:12  
**specifically** 45:17 59:19  
**specified** 44:20 45:3 66:3  
**speech** 30:7  
**spell** 30:3  
**spent** 9:4 49:8  
**spikes** 29:6  
**sponsored** 23:8  
**spot** 23:4  
**spread** 42:9 53:15  
**spreading** 40:18 53:7  
**St** 64:8  
**stack** 23:13 45:22  
**stage** 44:25 46:3  
**stake** 58:18  
**stand** 42:6  
**standard** 59:21  
**standards** 42:8 65:20,21,25  
**standing** 59:22  
**star** 4:17 6:6,9 14:20 17:23,25  
 27:4,6 33:20 41:8,10,14 55:17  
 55:19 57:13,15,19 58:6 66:21  
 68:5  
**start** 12:3 13:18 58:10 60:10  
 63:18  
**started** 2:7 39:7 53:18  
**starting** 34:18 35:13  
**starts** 60:8  
**state** 1:2,6,8,12 2:9 3:7,22,25  
 5:9,11 12:6,9 20:19 21:12  
 28:8 29:4 31:12,13 32:14  
 42:23 44:21 47:6 48:10,24  
 50:19,19 64:4,6 70:2  
**state's** 16:14 17:7 47:18 48:22  
**stated** 48:16 59:12 60:16 70:5  
**statement** 7:2 22:3 29:10 37:20  
 55:8 62:16,22  
**statements** 5:20 63:2  
**States** 30:14,15 49:6  
**stating** 21:21  
**stay** 40:2 43:9  
**stemming** 43:12  
**stenographer** 7:5  
**step** 28:22 49:16 51:3  
**sterilization** 56:21  
**Steuben** 52:16  
**stink** 36:25  
**stone's** 25:3  
**stop** 42:4,6  
**stopped** 42:5 53:16  
**stormwater** 3:10  
**straight** 65:15  
**straw** 36:19  
**streams** 45:10 53:17  
**strenuously** 56:15 57:6  
**strictly** 38:14  
**stringent** 11:20  
**strong** 47:8 48:18  
**strongly** 6:22  
**structure** 22:20  
**studied** 19:4  
**studies** 8:9 15:21 19:4 55:7  
**study** 10:24 32:10,17,20 33:2  
 54:21  
**submission** 5:4,9 7:9  
**submit** 5:13 19:6  
**submitted** 5:2 6:23 8:7  
**submitting** 24:14  
**subscribed** 70:10  
**subsection** 3:15,15  
**substance** 18:15  
**substances** 16:19 17:6,11,12  
**substantiated** 15:6  
**sue** 12:2  
**suffer** 55:11  
**suffered** 12:10 16:21 48:4  
**suffering** 17:3 52:9  
**sufficient** 17:9

**sufficiently** 4:9  
**summary** 43:23 50:25  
**Superfund** 9:25 12:7 13:14 22:18  
 25:14 30:13,21 31:3 64:9  
**supervisor** 61:25  
**supply** 62:3  
**supplying** 44:15 45:4  
**support** 15:7,17 20:4,18 27:24  
 40:18 49:10  
**supporting** 40:24 44:14  
**supposed** 54:22  
**suppression** 34:9  
**sure** 35:11 59:10,12,14 62:23  
**surface** 18:18 58:24 59:17  
**surprise** 22:24  
**surprised** 42:22 43:4  
**surprising** 35:23  
**surround** 14:13  
**surrounding** 25:7,20 26:6  
**sustained** 64:5  
**swim** 25:9  
**system** 24:7 25:24,24 31:25  
 44:25 60:24 62:4  
**systems** 44:17 49:14 50:3,3  
 60:10

---

**T**

---

**take** 26:19 43:7 46:6 54:4  
**taken** 15:15  
**takes** 17:15  
**talk** 31:16,21  
**talked** 22:17  
**Tatiana** 12:24 13:6  
**taught** 19:22  
**Taunton** 8:24,25  
**teach** 24:24  
**team** 56:12  
**technical** 23:19 39:16 56:13  
 57:3 66:15 67:24  
**technique** 64:15  
**technologies** 8:23 34:13  
**technology** 29:9 46:17,21 56:8  
 56:15  
**telephone** 5:5 6:3,6 14:19 17:22  
 17:25 27:4,7 29:16  
**tell** 58:3 59:23 62:12,13 66:24  
**tells** 31:24  
**telomere** 35:15,17  
**temperature** 21:13 29:12 35:10  
 45:12 46:11 50:10

**temperatures** 21:10 45:14 46:3,6  
**ten** 34:17 43:15 49:8  
**ten-year** 40:12  
**tend** 50:3  
**Tennessee** 8:22  
**tentative** 3:24 4:3  
**tenth** 37:7  
**terms** 54:18  
**test** 9:12 15:11,12,16,17 32:3,6  
 52:7 65:8  
**tested** 15:13 38:15 51:24 52:2  
**testimonies** 40:7  
**testimony** 8:5  
**testing** 30:22 53:16 65:9  
**tests** 8:9,10,12 21:15  
**thank** 2:5 10:6,7 12:22,23 14:15  
 14:16 17:18,19 19:7,8 21:21  
 21:23 24:15,17,22 26:25 27:2  
 29:12 33:16 36:10,11 38:15,17  
 38:22 41:4,5,18 42:20 44:3,4  
 44:6 46:20,22 49:2 51:5,6,8  
 52:10 54:6,7,12 55:14,15 57:9  
 57:11 61:8,10,19 63:21,22  
 66:9,10 67:20,21 68:23 69:4  
**theories** 8:8  
**thermal** 21:13 38:2 44:9,11,25  
 45:8,21,23 46:10,15,18,21  
 56:23  
**They're** 43:14  
**thing** 33:16,16 63:13  
**things** 4:7 42:25 54:18 55:5  
 59:16,20 60:7,7 66:9  
**think** 25:15 26:20 37:17 43:11  
 43:13,17 54:9,9 62:18 63:8,20  
 67:7  
**thinks** 25:15  
**thirty** 49:23 63:13 68:10  
**Thirty-eight** 52:18  
**thirty-five** 61:23  
**thirty-seven** 23:4  
**thirty-two-year** 36:14  
**Thomas** 7:15  
**thoroughly** 15:6  
**thousand** 35:10 37:7  
**threat** 18:20 39:20 47:9  
**threaten** 18:13  
**threatening** 18:11  
**three** 3:3,6,16 6:6,9,18,20,21  
 10:17 12:15 13:8 14:20 17:23  
 17:25 22:23 27:4,6 33:20 41:8

41:10,14 43:20 55:17,20 57:13  
 57:15,19 58:6 66:21 68:5  
**thresholds** 66:6  
**throw** 25:4  
**time** 6:19,20,21 10:13 24:16  
 25:23 26:17,17,25 28:11 32:21  
 33:7 34:25 41:4 45:16 49:25  
 51:23 52:11 61:8 63:20 65:23  
 66:4,9 67:22 68:23,25 70:4  
**timer** 6:18  
**times** 4:18 46:4 49:23 65:25,25  
**Timothy** 24:18,23  
**Title** 1:6,10  
**today** 5:21 6:2 9:9 17:22 18:9  
 38:25 39:10 41:14,22  
**today's** 2:12 5:17  
**Tom** 27:21 61:16  
**tomorrow** 2:21 68:12,16,18,21  
 69:4  
**tonight** 2:18 22:8 26:21 67:17  
**tonight's** 2:19  
**tons** 8:17 11:12 13:23 26:5  
 36:24 37:6 38:8  
**Toohill** 58:12,13,14,16 61:7,8  
 61:10  
**topic** 39:5  
**topics** 19:23  
**total** 35:19  
**totally** 35:11  
**tote** 13:19  
**touched** 64:23  
**town** 10:15 11:7 12:3,8,18 15:2  
 22:6,18,21 23:11,18,22 24:24  
 25:4 26:5,7 30:18,25 31:3  
 58:18 59:15 61:23,24,25 62:4  
 62:5,5,10,14,14,20 63:6,17  
**towns** 31:18  
**toxic** 9:25 17:10 18:7,16 31:25  
 32:12,18,23 39:3 40:9,13  
 65:14  
**toxicities** 34:10  
**toxicity** 35:21 36:5  
**toxicologist** 53:20  
**toxics** 34:11  
**toxins** 13:10,12 14:4,7 18:19,21  
 19:2 30:8,19 32:12,12,13 33:2  
 36:8 42:24  
**trace** 28:17  
**track** 35:3,20 40:5 56:14 57:4  
 62:19 63:3

**Tracy** 42:20  
**traffic** 54:21  
**tragic** 52:23  
**tragically** 17:6  
**transcription** 70:6  
**transfer** 37:3  
**transformational** 34:15  
**transformed** 35:5  
**transit** 37:9  
**transplant** 39:2  
**trash** 40:13  
**treat** 37:4 64:15  
**treated** 13:21 46:14  
**treatment** 9:6 14:3 20:7 28:4  
 51:19 52:7  
**trial** 44:3  
**tricked** 62:20  
**trillion** 43:15  
**Troy** 64:2 65:3  
**truck** 67:12  
**trucked** 13:22  
**true** 40:2 50:12 51:16,18 54:10  
 59:3 70:7  
**trust** 39:21 63:15  
**try** 27:18  
**trying** 13:18,25 65:5  
**turn** 6:10 27:18 52:6  
**turning** 40:6  
**twelve** 13:8  
**twenty** 8:17 9:9 11:12,17 13:22  
**twenty-three** 46:7  
**twenty-two** 65:15  
**Twice** 7:24  
**two** 8:6 12:14 23:9 27:11,12  
 29:17 30:17 34:5,7,23,25 35:8  
 53:19 54:19 62:17 67:10,12  
**type** 11:20 57:5  
**typewritten** 70:6  
**Typically** 34:15

---

**U**


---

**U.K** 36:2 44:20  
**U.S** 8:20 15:9 19:15,21  
**ubiquitous** 34:23  
**un** 54:9 60:15  
**unacceptable** 9:13 17:13  
**underneath** 63:14  
**understand** 47:16  
**understanding** 4:2  
**underutilized** 20:4

<p><b>undesirable</b> 21:8  <b>undue</b> 56:9  <b>unequivocally</b> 53:21  <b>unfair</b> 17:6 47:23  <b>unfortunately</b> 60:4,20 63:5  <b>unintelligible</b> 23:9 28:5 32:5  37:20 38:3,12 40:7 53:13  <b>Union</b> 4:18 40:22 54:19  <b>unique</b> 20:22  <b>unit</b> 60:14  <b>United</b> 30:13,15 49:6  <b>units</b> 45:5  <b>University</b> 39:14 53:19  <b>unknowns</b> 52:8  <b>unlimited</b> 60:5  <b>unmute</b> 5:24 6:5,7,15 14:21  17:24 18:2 27:5 29:14,19,21  33:21 41:10,16 55:18,21 57:14  57:16,20 58:12 61:12 66:23  67:22  <b>unmuted</b> 12:25 19:10 21:25 24:19  38:19 54:10 61:14 66:12,12,14  66:25 67:24  <b>unproven</b> 8:8 31:23 47:23 56:14  64:15  <b>unresolved</b> 34:10 35:22  <b>unsupported</b> 32:9  <b>unsustainable</b> 28:22  <b>upper</b> 50:21  <b>upstate</b> 9:25 25:14  <b>upstream</b> 45:10  <b>urge</b> 25:21 26:14 36:8 40:2  53:24 54:4  <b>urging</b> 62:9  <b>use</b> 3:13 19:23 32:11,17 35:24  36:3 37:19,23 41:25  <b>user</b> 61:12  <b>users</b> 18:13  <b>uses</b> 19:19  <b>usually</b> 35:18  <b>utilized</b> 15:13 45:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>V</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>V.O.C</b> 65:22  <b>vacant</b> 63:17  <b>Valancius</b> 44:5,6,7  <b>Valley</b> 51:11 64:7  <b>values</b> 34:18  <b>variety</b> 19:22  <b>various</b> 8:9 13:12</p>	<p><b>velocities</b> 46:2  <b>VENUE</b> 1:16  <b>Vermont</b> 28:6,11  <b>victims</b> 11:25  <b>village</b> 33:11  <b>villages</b> 31:15  <b>violations</b> 53:5 66:2  <b>vision</b> 34:8  <b>visit</b> 34:8  <b>voted</b> 7:25  <b>vulnerable</b> 17:2 21:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Walker</b> 33:23,24,25 34:3,3 64:20  <b>want</b> 12:11,21 26:23 42:17 43:18  43:22 49:10 50:13 62:13  <b>wanted</b> 51:17  <b>wants</b> 11:9 48:16  <b>warming</b> 49:22 50:5  <b>Warrensburg</b> 36:18 64:4  <b>Washington</b> 40:21  <b>wasn't</b> 35:2 59:24  <b>waste</b> 1:9 3:2,8,10 7:21 10:18  16:2,5 37:18 38:24 39:12  40:12 45:9,13 47:18 51:14,14  51:17,19 64:13,15,16,18  <b>wastewater</b> 8:10 9:5 13:21 18:8  20:7 28:4,8 38:5,6,11 51:18  65:14  <b>watched</b> 28:12  <b>water</b> 10:22 12:12 14:4 18:18  25:6,9 26:12 30:13,24 33:11  42:3 43:16 48:25 49:8 52:4  62:3  <b>Watershed</b> 12:5  <b>waterways</b> 14:9  <b>way</b> 48:3 64:7 65:23  <b>Wayne</b> 52:14,15  <b>ways</b> 29:17  <b>we'll</b> 10:23 18:2 19:6 27:17,20  29:20  <b>we're</b> 2:6 18:11 26:21 27:8,16  27:19 29:19 44:18 61:12 69:5  <b>we've</b> 53:16 57:22  <b>WebEx</b> 1:16 2:20  <b>website</b> 5:16  <b>weight</b> 5:19 6:25 31:11  <b>welcome</b> 2:7 68:19 69:3  <b>welcoming</b> 64:5  <b>welfare</b> 17:14</p>
--	--

<b>well-</b> 22:17	10:10,19 12:6,9 15:9 20:19
<b>wellbeing</b> 40:25	25:14 29:10,25 31:12,13 32:14
<b>wells</b> 52:14,14,15,15 53:17	36:2 38:24 42:15,16,23 44:13
<b>west</b> 26:14	44:21 47:6,17 48:13,22,24
<b>Westwood</b> 54:15	50:19 56:5,25 57:3 59:11
<b>wet</b> 46:17 56:23	61:17 64:2,4 67:10 70:2
<b>whatsoever</b> 62:19	<b>young</b> 40:11 41:3
<b>wheelbarrow</b> 33:10	<b>youngest</b> 36:17
<b>Wheeler</b> 30:16	<b>youth</b> 39:11
<b>WHEREOF</b> 70:9	
<b>white</b> 63:10	<b>Z</b>
<b>wide</b> 19:22 44:18	<b>zero</b> 25:19 38:23 39:12 59:25
<b>wife</b> 13:7	60:2
<b>William</b> 17:20,24	<b>zone</b> 46:11,12
<b>willing</b> 67:15	<b>zones</b> 23:5 46:3
<b>wind</b> 35:12,16	
<b>wish</b> 6:17 27:23,24	<b>0</b>
<b>wishes</b> 5:20	
<b>withhold</b> 15:4	<b>1</b>
<b>WITNESS</b> 70:9	<b>1</b> 48:22 70:5,7
<b>won</b> 62:7,8	<b>1115</b> 5:11
<b>wood</b> 2:25 3:10 13:23 36:25	<b>12977-0296</b> 5:12
<b>words</b> 52:22	<b>17th</b> 4:15
<b>work</b> 2:10 49:10 51:9	<b>19</b> 22:6 48:22
<b>worked</b> 41:20	<b>1947</b> 10:16
<b>workers</b> 18:12	<b>1974</b> 36:16
<b>working</b> 51:11	<b>1986</b> 28:10
<b>worldwide</b> 44:17	
<b>worrisome</b> 43:23	<b>2</b>
<b>worst</b> 30:17	<b>2</b> 3:15 46:19 49:23
<b>wrap</b> 12:16	<b>2/7/2024</b> 1:1 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1
<b>writing</b> 6:24	6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1
<b>written</b> 4:21 5:9,20 6:25 7:9	12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1
19:6,22 21:20,20 24:4 29:9	18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1
42:20 53:10	24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1
<b>wrote</b> 19:24	30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1
	36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1
<b>X</b>	42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1
	48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1
<b>Y</b>	54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1
<b>Yayoi</b> 38:18,23	60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1
<b>Yeah</b> 27:22 43:21	66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1
<b>year</b> 26:10,11 58:19 65:22	<b>2002</b> 11:3
<b>years</b> 7:17 17:15 19:15 25:3,10	<b>201-110</b> 24:5
28:3,13 30:19 34:5,7,23,25	<b>201-5</b> 1:9
35:8 39:9 43:7 44:17 49:8	<b>2014</b> 28:6
52:18 61:23 62:17 63:13	<b>2021</b> 9:6 19:5 22:12
<b>yesterday</b> 23:7	<b>2022</b> 9:8 41:24
<b>yield</b> 52:11	<b>2023</b> 10:24 42:5
<b>York</b> 1:2,8,12 2:9 5:9,12 10:2	<b>2024</b> 1:15 4:23,25 5:3 70:10



**20th** 70:10  
**211.1** 24:5  
**211.2** 24:5  
**22** 19:6  
**23** 19:6  
**296** 5:12

---

**3**

---

**3** 46:19  
**360** 1:12

---

**4**

---

**4th** 4:23,25 5:3 19:7

---

**5**

---

**5** 5:10 36:17  
**5-4144-00187/00001** 1:1,4 2:1  
3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1  
10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1  
16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1  
22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1  
28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1  
34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1  
40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1  
46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1  
52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1  
58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1  
64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1  
70:1

---

**6**

---

**6** 1:6,10  
**6:01** 1:15 2:2  
**69** 70:7  
**6NYCRR** 1:8,12

---

**7**

---

**7** 1:15 3:15  
**7:31** 69:6

---

**8**

---

**8** 3:15  
**86** 5:12

---

**9**

---

**91** 28:10