

Hillsborough Goes To Court To Force Mercury Removal

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Hillsborough's Township Committee will seek court action to compel the Defense Logistics Agency to implement their 2006 impact plan and record of decision (ROD), that called for the storage of all the nation's mercury at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

Advised by the Township's Health Officer, Dr. Glen Belnay, who has been monitoring the situation, that Nevada continues to find reasons to delay the shipment of mercury from Hillsborough, Mayor Anthony Ferrera stated, "Hillsborough is fed up with the stalling tactics. We want the mercury moved."

The federal environmental impact statement (EIS), developed over a two year period through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and finalized in 2006, determined that it is in the national interest for the mercury stored in Hillsborough, Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana to be moved to a centralized location on a remote Army base in Nevada.

Ferrera said, "Hillsborough has now been more than patient. The federal government promised the mercury would be moved. At this point I believe we need to bring legal action that pressures the federal government to keep their promise. The EIS's record of decision is law and it should be implemented."

Committeeman Carl Suraci stated, "Tax dollars have been spent on a plan that says moving the mercury is in the national interest. And tax dollars have been spent to give Nevada a Taj Mahal for the storage of the mercury. The location is in the middle of the desert and Nevada was fully involved in the final EIS process."

"Enough is enough. A lawsuit will get their attention," Suraci added.

The Township Committee authorized Township Attorney Albert Cruz to bring a legal action against the Defense Logistics Agency in an effort to compel the Agency to implement their taxpayer funded final environmental impact plan and record of decision.