



August 6, 2020

Letter to The Planning Commissioners - Storey County, Nevada

We would like to address the proposal reported in the recent article published in the Nevada Independent (July 29, 2020) concerning the request by Stericycle Inc. to build a medical waste incinerator in the county. The main thrust of the article was:

STOREY COUNTY, Nev. — A medical waste disposal company with a record of environmental compliance issues is facing pushback over a proposal to build an incinerator at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center outside of Reno.

The industrial center's largest landowner, Blockchains LLC, and horse advocates told a Storey County Planning Commission earlier this month that Stericycle's proposal to build a regional medical waste incinerator raised environmental concerns at the sprawling industrial park.

Over the past ten years, and certainly in the last two with the Sierra Springs Opportunity Fund, we have been trying diligently to both bring responsible business to Storey County and now the Opportunity zones (Storey, Reno and Silver Springs). Our efforts have resulted in environmental leadership, in almost every manner and regard. We are now working with wood and carbon recyclers, rubber recyclers, innovative, organic building materials and even new technologies around full thermal destruction of medical waste, very different than conventional, dirty, incinerators. I wish I had more time to discuss this with you, as it came up so fast.

We, as residents of Storey County, business operators in Storey County and northern Nevada, strongly oppose this application, on the grounds that incineration is a highly polluting activity with a history of mishaps, problems, and violations across the US which are too many to list here (addendum available). In addition, there is ample evidence in the public domain as demonstrated by multiple environmental and commercial fines proving that over the past two decades **Stericycle has demonstrated a pattern of activity that has exacerbated the fundamental issue with incinerators.**

At one point in time, the US had thousands of incinerators distributed across the country, and through the impact of the Clean Air Act, the vast preponderance of these incinerators have closed because of emission problems, soil and air contamination, and risk profile to the local communities. **This proposed facility would be no different with respect to pollution, contamination, and risk profile.**

Stericycle was asked to leave Salt Lake City in 2013. "Medical waste company Stericycle is leaving Utah; Hallelujah". They then spent more than five years looking for an alternate facility only to be rejected by everyone. Why do you think that was the case?

Stericycle then petitioned to open an incinerator in Tooele, Utah – a site made famous for storing and destroying chemical and nerve agent weapons, and the citizens of Tooele did not want them. A place that had stored and destroyed chemical weapons did not want them. "Stericycle has submitted an application or Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for an Approval Order (AO) for

a proposed hospital, medical, and infectious waste incinerator (HMIWI) source at 9250 Rowley Road, Tooele, Utah". It was subsequently rejected. **Why do you think that is the case?**

They then petitioned the city of North Las Vegas, and the citizens of North Las Vegas (the state) did not want them. "Stericycle abandons plans for North Las Vegas site following pushback over health and environmental risks". Why do you think that is the case?

Prior to that Stericycle was forced to close its incinerator in Arizona. "Stericycle, the largest medical waste treatment company in the US, has closed its medical waste incinerator on the Gila River Indian Reservation, in Arizona, in the wake of protests over health threats. **Why do you think that was the case?**

Stericycle did not even try to obtain a permit in California, even though most of the waste they would process at the proposed facility comes from California. They knew they would be unable to permit one. **Why do you think that was the case?**

Incinerators pollute. California did not want the Stericycle incinerator. North Las Vegas did not want the Stericycle incinerator. Salt Lake City did not want the Stericycle incinerator. Tooele did not want the Stericycle incinerator. Arizona did not want the Stericycle incinerator. Yet we are supposed to believe that it is acceptable for our county. **Are our citizens expendable?**

This is not about horses, or creating an eyesore in a pristine environment, but about the people that live and work in the county and the greater northern Nevada area. Air pollution is not static and localized; it drifts. Are the lives in this area worth less than those of anyone else in Salt Lake City, North Las Vegas, California, or Arizona?

This matter deserves the same respect as the other cities or locations that have repeatedly rejected the Stericycle incinerator because they pollute, and they have a strong pattern of non-compliance. This has been a two-decade pattern of incidents across the US that attests to the negative impact of incinerators.

This type of facility is not what Storey County needs. I recommend denial. There are much better alternatives and we only require clean, compliant, responsible businesses.

Kind thanks for your attention,



Corrado DeGasperis
777 American Flat Road
Virginia City, NV 89440

CEO, Sierra Springs Opportunity Fund Inc.
CEO, Comstock Mining Inc.