February 5, 2014

Joseph A. Gowers, Remedial Project Manager (by email)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10007-1866

Re: Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund Site Operable Unit Two

Dear Mr. Gowers:

We strongly urge the USEPA to pursue its own recommended action for the remediation of the O’Connor Disposal Area, which is: Alternative 5A, Removal of Fill for Off-Site Dispersal with On-Site Re-Use of Mine Tailings. Because of the site’s location, near wetlands and streams that drain into the Wanaque Reservoir, an important primary water source for communities in northern New Jersey, the capping of known contaminants is merely saving the problem for a future date. Given the stated concern of the USEPA of continued mine subsidences in the area, merely capping the contaminants will not protect our water supply in the long term. In the interest of protecting our water supply for current and future generations, removal of the contamination is the only acceptable remediation.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition represents the concerns of its 80-plus member organizations in the preservation of the water and other environmental and cultural resources of the New Jersey Highlands region.

Sincerely,

Elliott Ruga
Senior Policy Analyst and Campaign Coordinator

YOUR WATER, YOUR FUTURE