



NEW JERSEY  
HIGHLANDS  
COALITION

# NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

508 Main St., Boonton, NJ 07005 • 973-588-7190 • [www.njhighlandscoalition.org](http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org)

February 5, 2014

## Trustees

**J. Thonet PP, PE**  
*President*

**George Cassa**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

**Cindy Ehrenclou**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

**Jean Rich**  
*Secretary*

**David Budd**  
*Treasurer*

**Candy Ashmun**  
**William Cogger**  
**Robin Dougherty**  
**Ronald Farr**  
**James G. Gilbert**  
**Marion Harris**  
**Dwight Hiscano**  
**Michael Keady**  
**Cinny MacGonagle**  
**Kate Millsaps**  
**Wm. D. Primus**  
**Benjamin Spinelli**  
**Judith J. Sullivan**  
**Skip & Joyce Vilas**

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**