

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW
Commissioner

November 3, 2016

Re: Sweet Hills Riding Center

Dear Resident:

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) has prepared this letter in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island to provide health related information related to the alleged illegal dumping at the Sweet Hills Riding Center. An investigation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office indicates that most of the dumped material appears to be finely processed construction and demolition debris. Construction and demolition debris is waste material from the construction, renovation, and demolition of structures such as buildings.

As part of the District Attorney's investigation, soil samples were collected at the Sweet Hills Riding Center. The results of laboratory analyses conducted on those samples do not suggest excessive, widespread contamination. Although the results identified levels of contaminants that may exceed the allowable levels required for a criminal prosecution under state environmental laws, only a small percentage of the samples show contaminant levels that exceed either background levels or a soil guideline (New York State Restricted Residential Soil Cleanup Objectives). In the few samples in which a guideline or background was exceeded, the contaminant levels were not exceedingly high, and State Health officials advise that similar levels have been found historically in New York State surface soils having no obvious source of contamination. Some pieces of debris were also found to contain asbestos, though it was found to be non-friable asbestos. Non-friable asbestos is a form that does not readily release asbestos fibers when handled, which limits the chance of exposure, and therefore health risk. In conclusion, after consultation with the NYSDOH, the contaminant levels in the dumped material do not represent an unusual exposure for an active recreational setting, such as the riding center.

Regarding medical testing, based on a review of the data, it is the consensus of the NYSDOH, the Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island, and SCDHS that there is no need for blood or other testing (such as urine or skin testing). Such testing would not provide useful information to individuals who participated in activities at the Sweet Hills Riding Center or their health care providers.



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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
3500 Sunrise Highway, Ste. 124, PO Box 9006, Great River, NY 11739-9006
(631) 854-0000 Fax (631) 854-0108

