

STATEMENT BY SHARON KROEGER

Town of Amenia Hearing on Silo Ridge Application, May 5, 2015

My name is Sharon Kroeger. I have a small business in Wassaic Historic Hamlet and am a former Chair of the Ten Mile River Watershed Commission.

First: I wish to place in the record the May 2 Planning Editorial from the Millbrook Independent Newspaper. This editorial makes the point that it is essential for planning boards to address "regional context" as well as purely local concerns, especially where a viewshed such as Amenia's has been highlighted within the Dutchess Count Comprehensive Plan. It seems that counsel to the Amenia Planning Board has been giving contrary advice.

Second. I want to return to the point I made at an earlier hearing, requesting that the Planning Board review the scope of possible chemicals that they will authorize on the Silo Ridge Golf Course and on the maintenance of the residence grounds. Thus far the public is unaware of any discussion of this topic by this body, in response to the question. My concern is that deadly chemicals, such as glyphosate, which was used in Monsanto's Agent Orange, should not be authorized for use on the steep slopes of Delavergne Hill.

Less than half a mile down the Watershed, in Wassaic Hamlet, there are many homes with fairly shallow drinking water wells. The water there is pristine and part of the Planning Board's responsibility is to keep it that way. The issue of glyphosate in groundwater should be part of your review of this situation, because of the unique geographic features: proximity, steep slopes, and funnel factor. I shall attach a summary study dealing with contamination of glyphosate in real groundwater samples.

It should be noted that, in previous golf course SEQRA review for Amenia (Troutbeck, 1989), the Amenia Planning Board reviewed the Audubon list of chemicals, and removed one which was found unacceptable in that particular situation..

2 Attachments

- May 2 Editorial from the Millbrook Independent
- "Determination of glyphosate in groundwater samples, using an ultrasensitive immunoassay and confirmation by on-line solid-phase extraction followed by liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry. March 2012 Anal Bioanal Chem

The Regional Context

While parochial thinking may be encouraged by those town officials who appoint citizens to their planning boards, and by those who sit on such boards, the planning and legal literature strongly suggests that all decisions should explicitly address the regional context. We say this after hearing that counsel to the Amenia Planning Board was quoted as saying the opposite – that the board did not have to concern itself with comments coming from those who may not be full time residents of Amenia. Failure to consider the regional context may be one of those issues that could upset a decision whose consequences in fact affect the wider community. For instance, courts have struck down zoning ordinances that failed to consider regional housing needs. Regional planning is not restricted to housing. County planning has, in its written comments, made the view from and of Delavergne Hill a regional issue, as this column has noted. The view from and of Delavergne Hill is of importance to the travelling public, to residents of neighboring communities and to the world at large. It is of historic and artistic importance. Failure to appreciate the regional importance of this view could be an expensive oversight.

We will here go on record in saying that a restaurant and its parking area on the land to the north of Route 44 overlooking the golf course will be a trespass on the viewshed. The building, its equipment, and the cars of its customers and employees would be seen from near and far. It is not in keeping with the rural aspect of the town and its agricultural heritage, despite its being named “a vineyard.” The failure of the planning board to take a hard look at this part of the plan at this time is worrisome, as the board will be adopting the master development plan that includes buildings on the north side of Route 44. If the master plan is approved as submitted, such approval would create the presumption that the buildings on the north side of Route 44 had been considered and found to be in keeping with the town’s zoning. Since little attention has been given to that parcel, it should not be included in the master plan. It can be considered separately at a later date, and can therefore be separated now from the master plan without affecting the phase now being considered in depth. That north section has little or nothing in common with the “Resort Community” on the south side of Route 44.

*May 2, 2015 Planning Editorial from the
Millbrook Independent.
being submitted to the record at
hearing on May 5, 2015. by
D. Kroefer
5/5/2015*

Determination of glyphosate in groundwater samples using an ultrasensitive immunoassay and confirmation by on-line solid-phase extraction followed by liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry.

Sanchis J¹, Kantiani L, Llorca M, Rubio F, Ginebreda A, Fraile J, Garrido T, Farré M.

Author information

Erratum in

Anal Bioanal Chem. 2012 Aug;404(2):617.

Abstract

Despite having been the focus of much attention from the scientific community during recent years, glyphosate is still a challenging compound from an analytical point of view because of its physicochemical properties: relatively low molecular weight, high polarity, high water solubility, low organic solvent solubility, amphoteric behaviour and ease to form metal complexes. Large efforts have been directed towards developing suitable, sensitive and robust methods for the routine analysis of this widely used herbicide. In the present work, a magnetic particle immunoassay (IA) has been evaluated for fast, reliable and accurate part-per-trillion monitoring of glyphosate in water matrixes, in combination with a new analytical method based on solid-phase extraction (SPE), followed by liquid chromatography (LC) coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS), for the confirmatory analysis of positive samples. The magnetic particle IA has been applied to the analysis of about 140 samples of groundwater from Catalonia (NE Spain) collected during four sampling campaigns. Glyphosate was present above limit of quantification levels in 41% of the samples with concentrations as high as 2.5 µg/L and a mean concentration of 200 ng/L. Good agreement was obtained when comparing the results from IA and on-line SPE-LC-MS/MS analyses. In addition, no false negatives were obtained by the use of the rapid IA. This is one of the few works related to the analysis of glyphosate in real groundwater samples and the presented data confirm that, although it has low mobility in soils, glyphosate is capable of reaching groundwater.

Comment in

Letter to the editor regarding "Determination of glyphosate in groundwater samples using an ultrasensitive immunoassay and confirmation by on-line solid phase extraction followed by liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry". [*Anal Bioanal Chem.* 2012]