

***Ethanol plant does not belong near depot*** by Carolyn Griffin-Yeager  
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As more and more information becomes available concerning Penn Mar Ethanol and their desire to build what will be a considerable facility in our area, I urge our community to keep connected to this topic. There is plenty of very good research available that clearly demonstrates that this project should give us pause.

When all is said and done, no matter what side of the coin we are on (for or against ethanol) we each have to ask ourselves if this particular site is a logical location for such an endeavor and if so, would locating such a facility predominantly benefit or harm our community. I and many others would argue that there is an overwhelming degree of information substantiating that this is neither the right location, nor are the so called benefits for a very select few enough to outweigh the negatives to the rest of the community.

Let's talk about location. 1) The court system has already ruled that the location was never intended for a facility of this nature. 2) It makes no sense whatsoever to situate an industry well proven to be volatile literally within yards of expensive munitions intended to protect soldiers. 3) Our supporting structures (roadways, emergency response teams, railways, etc.) are neither intended to support this type of activity nor will Penn Mar be in any way responsible for ensuring that these and other support structures be improved. Who will pay? You and I no doubt!

Let's think about some other arguments. 1) Jobs - only 35 jobs would be established (not all local I'm betting) as opposed to the 2,000+ at Letterkenny which is the largest employer in Franklin County. 2) Water - this facility will use 800,000 gallons of water per day or more. That's enough for nearly 13,000 people per day. By now I believe most of us have heard that Franklin County is now the third fastest growing county in the state of Pennsylvania. I imagine that water usage could be better allocated elsewhere. 3) Economics - the large scale economic benefits just aren't there. It seems that Penn Mar couldn't or wouldn't even pay the measly \$20,000 payment in October of 2005 to extend its contract. They finally made that payment after pressure in April. We all now know too, that Penn Mar has a habit of not paying their bills – for our community, that means nearly \$45,000 left for us to pay. They did the same thing in Conoy Township. With their track record, it's difficult to imagine they'll fulfill any promises they make to our community.

It also makes me wonder if they have the wherewithal for an \$80M project, and more to the point, if they have the desire to give back to our community or just take from it. My bet is that when the government finally decides not to subsidize Ethanol and when people realize that when you fill your tank up with Ethanol not only will you pay the same, or more, your vehicle won't go as far Penn Mar will lock the door and go away since they in no way intend or desire to be a good neighbor.

There are many truly wonderful opportunities for us as our community continues to grow and expand but, let's make sure that our needs are protected first and big business second. Let's make common sense and logic be our guides.