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Too much is unknown about ethanol plant

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It's kinda hard to believe the leaders of our community would venture into the brave new world of ethanol plants without talking to the community and explaining how this is such a good idea and how prepared we are to handle it.

But sure enough, that's what happened here. Now that the land has been sold and most likely some agreement reached, we are supposed to believe that the idea of 38-40 purported "high-paying jobs" and the sale of some corn and byproducts should justify the significant risk to the environment and our health as well as the 200-plus hazardous trucks on our local roads and Interstate 81.

Just what I-81 needs — more trucks!

What are these high-paying jobs? How much do they pay? Who from Franklin County will qualify for these jobs or are they already promised to executives and others from Penn- Mar? Nobody knows!

How do we handle the explosive situation of a WW II vintage Army depot struggling to survive, a prison, a roofing company, and now, an \$80 million ethanol plant? What plan exists to evacuate the area if there is an accident at this ethanol plant? Nobody knows!

But everybody knows there have been many at other plants — just do a search on ethanol accidents on the Web. ...

How did Greene Township get in this? Nobody knows!

I thought they had representation on the LIDA board so that they could ensure that the interests of the community were protected. Everything I read about this says that major farm corporations such as Arthur Daniels Midland can make money. The ethanol plants can make money. Politicians can make money, but the public, how will they fare? Nobody knows!

How do we deal with all the pollution and carcinogens in the air? Will there be an increase in cancer rates? Here is another nice article I like concerning all the pollutants placed in the air: <http://indiana.sierraclub.org/Sierran/03-1/EthanolPlants.asp>.

What plans exist to evacuate schools, churches and the elderly? Nobody knows!

I always thought what made this area beautiful was that it was a nice quiet little town where we all could raise our families and live a peaceful life, where people loved to hunt, fish, enjoy family barbecues and involve themselves in sports and recreation. It had none of the trappings of major cities, but yet it was close to major metropolitan areas so if you wanted the city life for a day or so to take in a museum or a ballgame you could.

I think that is exactly what has lured more and more people to this area, including a major retired population. I'm sure they would be happy to pay more taxes to cover the bridge and road repairs necessary to handle all these trucks! We all realize the truck traffic will impact the bridge at the Scotland exit and our local roads (Pa. 997 and U.S. 11) the most.

I know Penn-Mar likes to point out that I-81 already has lots of hazardous materials traveling on it. That's true, so what's another 200 more! A heck of a lot if you ask me.

Water, where will the water all come from? The Letterkenny reservoir; I believe. We have had some major droughts in the last several years. Now the ethanol plant will use approximately 800,000 gallons of water per day and release about 300,000 gallons of water heated to 90 degrees into the streams, where the pollutants can be carried to the Chesapeake Bay to kill the crabs we all love to eat.

Man, if this is such a good deal why isn't everybody in the Northeast trying to jump on this bandwagon! Why didn't this fly in York County? Why are most all the other ethanol plants in the Midwest where the corn is? Nobody knows!

Why are they going to bring in train carloads of corn from the Midwest and maybe buy a few ears from Franklin County? We then load up the trucks carrying this lethal substance to Interstate 81. Boy, is this an accident waiting to happen!

How are we going to attract more businesses to Cumberland Valley Business Park? Doesn't everybody want to work at or live near an ethanol plant? I'm sure this will be one heck of a sales pitch. Come to the Cumberland Valley Business Park — we have ammunition, air and water pollution, a prison, and just to make things sweeter, we have a smelly ethanol plant that just might blow up someday!

As for me, I just want the town I grew up in back — one, where for most of my life, I didn't even have to lock the door to my house. Not one where I had to duck ethanol-carrying trucks on the road.

I just want to keep my property value and raise my kids and grandkids in a peaceful safe neighborhood. However, if this trend continues, my advice to my kids will be plain and simple. This ain't the same place I grew up in. Take your family and move out of here. And get me out, too, so I can avoid all the tax increases that are headed our way, elude the big ethanol explosion, and live out my life in peace and quiet.
