

Proposed Elcon Facility Status Report No. Three
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Issue 1: Regulatory Data Are Necessary For An Informed
Decision

It is the regulatory obligation of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to ascertain if Elcon's compliance assurances, as to the protection of the region's ambient environment, have merit. Because the Elcon waste handling plant's design is a first of its kind in the entire country, the foremost question posed by its application is: "How can Elcon demonstrate adequately that its completely novel design will meet the applicable hazardous substances emission standards?"

The only viable means to obtain this regulatory compliance assurance would appear to be a thorough examination of the operational record of the companion Elcon waste handling facility currently operating in Israel. What Elcon did or didn't do in operating its Israel plant is the sole and exclusive database available for the "real world" activity that Elcon proposes to replicate here in the United States. Despite this Israeli data being crucially relevant to the PADEP's evaluation of the pending Elcon application, it is our current understanding that Elcon has refused to disclose that operational history to anyone in the United States, particularly including all the stakeholders

that have requested it. That apparent stonewalling of the involved regulatory agencies and the American public constitutes a grave concern which raises the obvious [and obviously "must answer" by the PADEP] question - WHAT IS ELCON HIDING?

If, as logic dictates that past is prologue, then the only reasonable conclusion is that the Elcon operations in Israel were not environmentally protective and will likewise be inconsistent with applicable environmental standards here as well. The PADEP must address this absence of transparency ASAP or risk losing all credibility in the thoroughness of its compliance review with the public left both in the dark and unable to participate on an informed basis in this upcoming regulatory decision making process.

Obviously, the simple solution is for Elcon to make available to the PADEP and the residents of this area the environmental compliance data from Elcon's operating plant in Isarel.

Issue 2: Where Do the Hazardous Materials In the Wastewater Finally Go?

Elcon proposes to annually through-put 50 to 55 million gallons of waste water, potentially containing up to 596 hazardous substances, for on-site processing in Falls Township, should the PADEP ultimately approve Elcon's application. Upon arrival in tanker trucks, that huge volume of water containing hazardous waste will be diverted into four holding tanks depending on the specific hazardous materials contained in the wastewater. The liquids contained in the holding tanks will then be processed

using Elcon's proprietary technology. The goal of this processing, based on Elcon's submittal, will be destruction of hazardous volatile organic chemicals and the separation of hazardous waste solids from the wastewater. Specifically, the hazardous organic chemicals will be consumed, the solids separated out for ultimate disposal at a hazardous waste landfill, and the water fraction released as steam to the ambient environment. Elcon has stated that there will be no discharge to the Delaware River.

Regulatory agencies and the public should require responses to two critically important questions related to the potential exposure of residents to hazardous materials that leave the facility:

1. How will the steam vented into the environment from the treatment process be monitored to ensure that such releases will not contain residual hazardous volatile organic materials? This is particularly relevant to Bordentown City and Bordentown Township as the two communities are downwind from the proposed facility.
2. How will the residual hazardous waste solids be transported from the proposed facility and where are the hazardous waste landfills to which these solids will be transported? This question is relevant to the health and safety of residents in the communities through which the hazardous waste solids will be conveyed.

We look forward to a response from Elcon to both of these important questions.