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Date: 2/22/02 9:14PM
Subject: Environmental Issues at Akwasasne

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation

I urge you to consider the environment in any decisions made concerning Akwasasne. The industrial decisions already made have polluted the lands and waters there, and it has become hazardous for people to live and to make a living. Many have experienced serious health problems such as cancers.

Those whose traditions, spirituality, and homes are tied to these lands have thus been damaged and deprived on several levels. This is a subtle and progressive injustice, since the serious pollution deprives ensuing generations, and slowly traditions and memories are lost.

Too often, we think in terms of the immediate profit and the short-term material gains of a specific action. It is time to consider the long-term effects and the overall impact our actions will have. We must cherish the earth and use it gently so that it will last for our children and our grandchildren for generations to come. Otherwise, we will have been bad stewards of our inheritance.

Thank you for listening.

Susan Wolf