

# Upper Makefield says no to Elcon

**Opponents say potentially disastrous environmental consequences could occur if the proposed chemical waste plant in Falls goes into operation.**

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CORRESPONDENT

Official opposition is mounting against a proposed hazardous waste treatment plant in Falls.

Upper Makefield supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt a resolution opposing the facility Elcon Recycling Services wants to build on a 23-acre property in Falls' Keystone Industrial Port Complex.

While the proposed plant lies outside Upper Makefield, opponents say potentially disastrous environmental consequences could occur if the facility goes into operation, making it a massive concern for communities around Lower Bucks and beyond — a point township supervisors took to

heart.

"I think this is a really important issue for the environment and the health of the community," said Upper Makefield Supervisor Diana Nolan.

In adopting a resolution opposing Elcon's plan, Upper Makefield joined other municipalities in Bucks County and New Jersey that have taken similar stands, including Newtown Township and Bordentown, according to Lise Baxter of Protect Our Water & Air, a group battling to keep the Elcon facility from being built.

"We need more people to speak up and take a stand," Baxter said after

the supervisors' vote. "This is something that will decide the future of this area."

Elcon proposes to build a treatment plant that would process 150,000 to 210,000 tons of pharmaceutical and chemical waste annually.

The facility would be located less than a mile from the Delaware River. Opponents are gravely concerned that spillage could pollute the river and threaten drinking supplies for millions of people. They're also worried that emissions from the plant could pollute the air in the densely populated area — and beyond.

Opponents say building and operating the plant would put Elcon in violation of the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act, the Wild and Scenic River Act, the federal Clean Water Act,

the Delaware River Basin Commission Act and the Delaware Estuary Toxic Management Program.

The resolutions passed by Upper Makefield and other municipalities call on the state Department of Environmental Protection and Falls supervisors to reject Elcon's plans. DEP reviews the plan first — a process that could last more than a year.

Should the proposal make it through DEP's review, agencies in Bucks County and Falls would then evaluate it. Ultimately, Falls supervisors have the final crucial vote on whether the plant can be built or not.

"We want to make it clear to Falls supervisors that this is something the community doesn't want," said Baxter.

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