

# Crossgates opponents give views to EnCon

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**GUILDERLAND** — Opponents of the proposed \$85 million Crossgates mall scored the state Department of Environmental Conservation for not reopening public hearings on the issue.

They submitted their opinions Thursday in letters to EnCon Commissioner Robert Flacke.

Thursday was the final day for parties to submit factual information on air quality data for the intersection of Western Avenue and Schoolhouse Road. Flacke two weeks ago announced the Thursday deadline and promised to make a decision by the end of June on whether to grant Pyramid Crossgates Co., the mall's developer, 11 needed permits.

According to Thomas Ulasewicz, a civil counsel for EnCon, five letters were submitted to Flacke from mall opponents. Pyramid had already submitted a letter from its air quality analyst saying air quality standards at the intersection could be met through air quality computation changes or through other mitigating factors, such as traffic light signal changes or traffic plan alterations.

Ulasewicz said other letters came from Rhonda Childs, president of Concerned Citizens Against Crossgates, who said public hearings were closed prematurely; Lindsay Childs, her husband, who submitted a nine-page letter analyzing traffic and air quality at the intersection; John Shea, attorney for the anti-mall McKownville Improvement Association, who said EnCon did not provide adequate time for him to respond to the mitigating factors submitted recently by Pyramid and asked for an additional 60 days in which to respond; Bruce Phillips of McKownville, who said new information on traffic and air quality demanded the hearings be reopened; and Ed Fogarty of Guilderland, who contended it is the responsibility of the mall's developer to redesign the intersection, not that of EnCon.

Fogarty's comments referred to an April 27 memorandum to Flacke from Harry Hovey, director of the EnCon Air Division, who suggested several mitigating factors by which air quality standards might be met at the intersection.