

July 15, 2013

Mr. Peter DeLucia
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Public Health Protection
Westchester County Department of Health
25 Moore Avenue
Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Re: Hen Island, New York

Dear Mr. DeLucia,

My family has owned a cottage on Hen Island in Rye, New York for over 30 years; I am writing to inform you of the overwhelming mosquito infestation on Hen Island and about my concerns for the health and safety of the residents of Hen Island and, more broadly, Westchester County.

Due to the failure of Hen Island to implement a mosquito control program (and, I believe, from the uncovered storage of water and below code handling of sewage), the population of mosquitos has precipitously increased. Based on personal experience, Hen Island has an arm landing count on the northern part of Hen Island of over 50 mosquitos a minute. This is the same number that they have in the Florida Keys, an area that is bordered by mangroves and tidal marshes and are considered to be prime breeding grounds for mosquitos.

While a large mosquito population is a problem unto itself, the fact that mosquitos are prime carriers of West Nile Virus makes the infestation even more urgent.

I ask that Westchester County take active approach towards the mosquito infestation on Hen Island because this problem and the health dangers that accompany it are not limited to just Hen Island residents and visitors but, in fact, put all of the children, elderly and other residents of Westchester County's coastal communities in danger. The mosquitos on Hen Island do not stay on Hen Island. The mosquitoes are not limited by the few thousand feet of water between Hen Island and the Rye and Greenhaven coastal areas. As I am sure that you know, these mosquitos will travel up to 25 miles and by doing so create a danger to the health and safety of all Westchester residents.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Barotz