

Leonard Amburgey

I retired to Arizona five years ago to pursue my interests in Astronomy. I live as remote as possible for access to a dark sky. I was from Massachusetts where I established two observatories one dedicated to monitoring near-earth Asteroids (IAU 823) in cooperation with the Minor Planet Centers based at Harvard University. I was credited with the discovery of a major near-earth asteroid of the Apollo class crossing on each orbit inside or just outside the earth's orbit. The second was for teaching astronomical data analysis for graduate student in Earth sciences. I closed both the observatories because of light pollution from random development in the area. In 10 years, the sky brightened 10 times (2 full magnitudes) a brighter sky obscures dimmer objects (stars, nebula, galaxies) and further limits larger telescopes as does a full moon. Since I arrived, the sky dome above Benson has brightened at an accelerated rate. Even faster than rural North Central Massachusetts. Clearly, the local planning board sees increasing the tax base and limited jobs and have little interest in mitigating or enforcing existing violations. The only way to preserve the night sky is to demand: FULL SHIELDED LIGHTING, MOTION ACTIVATED LIGHTING, KEEPING LOW TEMPERATURE BULBS (

SECOND CONCERN: relates to ground water contamination, I have a deep well and eventually the plant needs to dispose of CHEMICALS: excess aluminum, lead, iron, zinc, manganese, barium and nickel exceeding all safety standards. This can spread through the aquifer and contaminate all water supplies. If direct to surface water kill aquatic invertebrates' fish and amphibians.

THIRD CONCERN: Air quality concerns: Pollutants are released to the atmosphere.

Recycling processes—especially shredding, melting, and casting—release airborne contaminants into local environments. Key air pollutants include:

- Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Acid-forming gases (hydrogen chloride, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides)
- Metals and metalloids (lead, cadmium, mercury, zinc)

Possible polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and dioxins/furans if plastics or contaminated scrap are processed.

Particulate matter released into the atmosphere also can refract stray light and brighten the sky as well

FINAL CONCERN: Tardy awareness of this pending implementation. I only heard about this from rumors, and an email. Such should have given all residents full notification. I am traveling as a vacation to bring out my last part of my equipment from Massachusetts.

Leonard & Sharon Amburgey