

# Ask Inspector Sleuth



**Dear Inspector Sleuth,**

**Is it true that Cotter puts "toxic waste" within one mile of a residential community like Hooker Chemical Company did in Love Canal?**

**Signed, R. U. Nuts**

Dear Mr. Nuts,

Cotter's impoundments contain mill tailings and contaminated soil from Superfund and mill clean up activities. Mill tailings contain ore residues, processing chemicals, water and uranium since processing is not 100% efficient. Yes, tailings do have an icky color and might be considered "toxic waste". The permitted "toxic waste" disposal sites are listed on website <http://www.cdphs.state.co.us/hm/hw/hwfacinfo.htm>. Cotter is not on this list.

When Cotter chose a site back in 1957, they did so because it was outside of town in a heavy industrial area with a lead smelter and coal mines. Between 1957 and 1983, the land Cotter is on belonged to the State of Colorado.

Cotter Corporation was sited around 30 years before the first subdivisions were platted west of the mill and annexed into the city. Dates of property purchases are available on [www.qpublic.net/fremont/](http://www.qpublic.net/fremont/). Today, in 2010, there are residences within one mile of the mill.

Cotter did not decide to locate near residences. Residences chose to locate near Cotter. This is the "too much noise from the airplanes" complaint from residents who move near an established and active airport. At Love Canal ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love\\_Canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Canal)) homes and schools were built directly on top of contamination ignoring objections and warnings of Hooker Chemical Company. Cotter's land containing mill tailings can never be sold. After the mill is decommissioned, Cotter will perform and pay for reclamation. When reclamation is accepted by the government, the US Department of Energy will assume ownership and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will license the site in perpetuity.

Check out [www.fcio.org](http://www.fcio.org) for more information.

Your faithful inspector  
*Inspector Sleuth*

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