

VareseNews

Toxic waste in Saronno: “We want an environmental check immediately”

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An immediate environmental check of the toxic waste stored in Saronno has been called for by the Mayor, **Luciano Porro**, in a **letter** that the city has just sent **to the Lombardy regional environmental protection agency, ARPA, and to Varese Province**. The object of the check is **9000 m³** of toxic waste, which a decree by a government commissioner has ordered to be taken away to a company in Saronno, **Solter Ltd**, which is authorised to store this type of waste. **The source:** the decontamination of the dumps of the former chemical plant in Pioltello and Rodano. Nine thousand cubic metres fill **hundreds of trucks**, which, since Sunday morning, have been driving between the motorway and the company, in Via Grieg, just behind Saronno South station. The waste is contained in **closed protected bags** from which nothing should spill.

“We don’t know **whether or not this waste is toxic**, nobody has told us its danger level, also because **nobody has warned us about it**,” the Mayor explained. “From our inquiries, it should be lamp black and earth, as was claimed yesterday. But we want to understand **which chemical products it contains**. It’s unthinkable that the government commissioner should decide on this waste storage without the involvement of the council, only that of the Region and the Province, by letter.” The regional councillor, **Rienzo Azzi**, has also got involved in the matter, presenting a question to the Lombardy Council, which should be discussed in the few days.

The people at Solter prefer to say nothing. In the warehouse, large 1m³ canvasses can be seen from the street, which are being **placed one on top of the other**. We asked to speak with the person in charge, but were told that he was not available and that the company did not have a secretary’s office.

“We don’t doubt that the company **is able to handle this type of waste**,” the Mayor explained. “We understand the Region’s haste, in order to avoid sanctions from Europe for the handling of this waste. **But we want answers**. Why weren’t we involved? When we called the Region, why did the political authorities know nothing, only the directors of the sector? Why **weren’t we informed of this operation** by Varese Province, who received the letter from the government commissioner? But most of all, what exactly do these bags contain? **Is that earth contaminated with chemicals? Which ones?** Why send them to Saronno? Are we sure that nothing will be spilled while the trucks are in transit?”

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