

**LOCAL NEWS****ELMIRA****No response  
to extension request**

The state Department of Health did not respond Wednesday to the requests from the Southside Advisory Committee and the city of Elmira to extend the deadline for public comment on an August health report.

Lawyers representing the city and the committee had asked the health department to extend a Dec. 15 deadline to Jan. 15. This was the third extension that the lawyers had requested.

Andy Carlson, director of the health department's Bureau of Environmental Exposure and Investigation, told the two lawyers Tuesday that he would respond to their requests by Wednesday, said Craig Slater, an environmental attorney hired by the city.

Slater said he would scramble to draft a response outlining the city's concerns about the August report to submit by Friday. He said he had hoped to reserve comments until two independent environmental agencies had reviewed the state's investigation and conclusions.

The health report summarizes the state Department of Environmental Conservation and health department's investigation of a possible cancer cluster related to contamination at Southside High School, which is built on a former industrial site.

In an Oct. 23 letter, Carlson said the comments received regarding the August report would be included in a second draft of the health report. That second draft would be reissued and the public would be given another opportunity to comment on it.

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