



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Stephen Dalina
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831
Phone 732.521.4400

January 26, 2021

By Electronic Mail and First-Class Mail
The Hon. Shawn M. LaTourette
Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street, 7th Floor East
Trenton, NJ 08625
Shawn.LaTourette@dep.nj.gov

RE: Landfill Superfund Site in Monroe Township ("Landfill Site"), Block 148, Lot 37, EPA ID#
NJD980505671

Commissioner LaTourette,

Congratulations on your recent appointment. I am writing to you today to make a few requests regarding the above-referenced Landfill Site, and to suggest that you and I personally visit the site together at your convenience. I, too, have recently assumed new responsibilities, as I was sworn in as Monroe Township's Mayor following the passing of Mayor Gerald Tamburro. My predecessor worked to shine a light upon significant concerns at the above-referenced Landfill Site, to encourage action by the appropriate regulatory agencies, and I intend to continue that important effort.

The Landfill Site is under the control of Republic Services ("Republic"), the responsible party, and regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") and the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). Certain chemical odors had emanated out into parts of a residential neighborhood in the Township, as described in numerous correspondence to then Commissioner McCabe beginning in September 2020. As you begin your tenure as Commissioner, I hope that you and your staff will continue to exercise strong oversight over the responsible party at the Landfill Site to ensure the health and safety of Township residents.

I want to thank the NJDEP, especially Section Chief Gwen Zervas, for prompt attention to the Township's letter dated December 28, 2020 regarding a leachate spill at the Landfill Site. Section Chief Zervas visited the site with EPA officials on December 29, 2020, and witnessed an ongoing surcharge/overflow of leachate at a manhole. This event obviously added further to the Township's concerns. It is my understanding that NJDEP and EPA personnel responded quickly and demanded immediate emergency action from the responsible party to stop the spill and prevent further incidents.

Township officials were informed of the remedial efforts at the Landfill Site to prevent leachate spills until a long-term solution is implemented. We are aware that a temporary plan includes increased storage tanks and more frequent hauling of leachate, among other steps. I respectfully request that you provide me with a written update detailing all measures being taken to prevent future spill incidents, so that I may share that information with the Council and our residents.

I also ask that you please provide the Township with an updated report regarding progress toward a final procedure and action plan to resolve the underlying issues that created odor problems near the Landfill in August/September 2020, so that we may share that with our residents as well. I request that you and I tour the Landfill Site and its leachate collection facilities, to gain a first-hand understanding of the Township's concerns.

I look forward to working with you and your team. Thank you for your anticipated attention and response to these requests.

Sincerely,



Stephen Dalina
Mayor, Township of Monroe, Middlesex County

Cc: (by Electronic Mail)

Louis N. Rainone, Esq., Monroe Township Attorney
Alan M. Weinberg, Monroe Township Business Administrator
Monroe Township Council
Zach McCue, Deputy State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker
Chakeema Cruickshank, Office of U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
Walter Mugdan, Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 2
Pat Evangelista, Director, Superfund and Emergency Management, EPA, Region 2
John Osolin, Remedial Project Manager, EPA, Region 2
Rich Puvogel, EPA, Region 2
Patricia Seppi, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA, Region 2
New Jersey State Assemblyman Dan Benson
New Jersey State Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo
New Jersey State Senator Linda Greenstein
Mark Pedersen, Assistant Commissioner of Site Remediation and Waste Management, NJDEP
Mickey Gross, Division Head, Middlesex County Environmental Health Commission
Amber Shiffner, Middlesex County Environmental Health Commission
Joseph Difillippo, Middlesex County Environmental Health Commission
Alan Hemma, Director, Operations Support, Republic Services
Randy Deardorff, Environmental Manager, Republic Services
Jacob Schmidt, Environmental Manager, Republic Services