

**From:** Stephen Dalina  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** [Shawn.LaTourette@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Shawn.LaTourette@dep.nj.gov) <[Shawn.LaTourette@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Shawn.LaTourette@dep.nj.gov)>  
**Subject:** BFI Landfill update

Commissioner LaTourette,

As a follow up to our recent discussions I wanted to document and summarize my concerns and action plan. As you are aware, late Friday afternoon, Ms. Gwen Zervas of your Department advised Monroe Township Utility Department Director, Mr. Joe Stroin, to conduct a camera survey of the Township's storm water lines adjacent to the BFI/Republic Landfill. As you are also aware, this request came about as a result of your Department performing an air quality test at a residence near the Landfill. According to those with knowledge of the testing, your Department has confirmed the presence of certain chemical compounds in the ambient air that are of concern. It is imperative that you be transparent and provide the full results of that testing to me and my residents, so that we know what was found, and if it is similar to compounds found in leachate.

As a point of information and concern, there is a storm water catch basin near the residence where air samples were taken. The results of the air test, coupled with the fact that this catch basin is nearby, has led your Department to want to investigate whether or not leachate or other matter from the BFI/Republic Landfill is somehow utilizing the Township's storm water system as a preferential pathway into the neighborhood. As we all know, leachate should never enter a storm sewer.

This, Commissioner, is of great concern to me. Over the last several months I have expressed to you my concern for the health of my residents. I have also discussed the steps I wanted to take and will take to systematically address those concerns and develop short- and long-term solutions. I respectfully request that you join me in my efforts so that the health of my residents is protected.

Specifically, I alert you of the following:

- 1) There will be no more discussion at all regarding the re-entry of leachate into the municipal sanitary sewer system. As I have mentioned numerous times to you, DEP staff and the residents, I will not allow the leachate into our sanitary sewer system until the dedicated force main is constructed. The Township will be building the force main, and any further talk of re-entry distracts all of us from discussing other measures that should be undertaken.
- 2) From this point forward, any discussions, zoom meetings or in person meetings regarding the BFI/Republic Landfill should only occur if they include my engineering experts, my lawyers, my staff and any other subject matter experts that I choose to involve including but not limited to representatives from the Middlesex County Health Department as well as the Middlesex County Utility Authority.

- 3) Any camera surveys of our storm water system will be done in accordance with the recommendations and prioritization of my engineering experts in consultation with your staff. It is our belief that by prioritizing the areas to be surveyed, we will be able to ascertain and analyze data in a more efficient and expeditious manner.
- 4) DEP needs to install ground water monitoring wells at strategic locations around the Landfill to determine whether there is offsite migration of leachate. If there is, the DEP must move expeditiously to determine if the migration is a result of a breach in the clay wall, inefficiency the hydraulic control induced by the existing leachate collection and conveyance system, and/or waste that was not contained within the containment system.
- 5) Tanker trucks continue to disregard speed limits and are failing to follow the direct path from the Landfill to the nearest accessible County Road. The Township will increase enforcement of truck violations through Inwood Estates.

I feel we need to work collaboratively and expeditiously. Unfortunately, since the beginning of the issues, your Department has spent way too much time focused on the reintroduction of leachate into the Township's sanitary sewer system. It has spent way too much time trying to convince the residents and me that a force main is not necessary. It has spent way too much time trying to downplay the work of my experts and the concerns that they and the residents have expressed over the last few months that your Department is just now acknowledging. It has spent way too much time trying to convince the residents, without the introduction of up-to-date testing, monitoring, sampling, or data collection that all is fine at the BFI/Republic Landfill and that they should not feel that their health and safety is at risk. We need to provide the citizens of Monroe up to date information and an action plan. Monroe Township is moving forward for the sake of our residents.

Commissioner, I want to trust that the assertions previously made by DEP that all is well and safe at the landfill are accurate. However, we have reached the point where that trust will only be earned when you can show me the science that proves and guarantees that assertion.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the health and safety of my residents.

Thank you-

Mayor Stephen Dalina  
The Township of Monroe

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