



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 29 2020

Honorable Gerald W. Tamburro
Mayor, Township of Monroe, Middlesex County
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831

Re: Monroe Township Landfill

Dear Mayor Tamburro:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me on Friday as a follow up to your September 18th letter raising urgent concern with vapor emissions and associated odors in the vicinity of the Monroe Township Landfill Superfund site. Please know that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) takes your community's concerns very seriously and that we are continuing to engage in efforts to investigate the cause and mitigate the vapors in the area of the site. Although the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has the lead role overseeing the party responsible for the Monroe Township Landfill operation and maintenance, EPA has stepped in, with state concurrence, to provide assistance in this matter.

EPA first learned of the concerns at the site in August 2020 when residents contacted John Osolin, the site's Remedial Project Manager. As a result of these calls, EPA set up a meeting with Township officials, representatives from Republic Services, and residents on August 13th. At this meeting, the teams decided to monitor the water discharge from the landfill and gas levels in the sewer system to determine if there is a relationship to the understandably distressing vapor emissions causing odors. The residents also agreed to report the occurrence of odors to EPA. Since that meeting, EPA has continued to exchange information and report out on progress of the investigation to residents, Township officials, and Republic Services representatives.

As you know, the odors were detected more frequently during the week of September 21st and I want to thank you for participating on the September 23rd call with EPA's project team, other Township representatives, and representatives of Republic Services. Shortly after that meeting, I became aware that another incident occurred. The Township reported directly to EPA that residents detected odors inside their homes. As you know later that night, Republic immediately visited the site and turned the landfill pumps off, which resulted in the odors eventually dissipating. We are actively working with Township officials and Republic to investigate the causes of the issues with the pumps and have teams on the ground inspecting the site daily. As of

10:00 a.m. on September 24th, the leachate pumping system to the Township sewer line was turned off. The leachate discharge to the sewer will remain off while Republic's contractors examine the pumping discharge system and make corrections. Republic has indicated to EPA that they will truck the leachate off the landfill before the leachate storage tank reaches its capacity if they cannot get the pumping system to function in a manner that controls leachate flow.

Please know that my team and I are personally available to meet with you and the community at your request. EPA's project team is working directly with your staff to find an outdoor location for a public meeting to be hosted as soon as possible.

As a former local elected official, I appreciate how challenging it can be to address your constituents' public health concerns. Please know that engaging with communities and finding thoughtful solutions to minimize impacts is of utmost importance to us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 637-5000. Technical experts from the Township are also encouraged to continue their information exchange with John Osolin at osolin.john@epa.gov or (212) 637-4412 and community concerns can be sent to EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Pat Seppi at seppi.pat@epa.gov or (646) 369-0068.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Lopez
Regional Administrator