



# *Township of Monroe*

County of Middlesex

**Gerald W. Tamburro**  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831  
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December 28, 2020

By Electronic Mail and First-Class Mail

Mr. Peter D. Lopez  
Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
[lopez.peter@epa.gov](mailto:lopez.peter@epa.gov)

The Hon. Catherine R. McCabe  
Commissioner, New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
401 E. State Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor East  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
[Catherine.McCabe@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Catherine.McCabe@dep.nj.gov)

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

Administrator Lopez and Commissioner McCabe,

Following my correspondence to your agencies beginning September 18, 2020, and at my urging, Republic Services (“Republic”) as the party responsible for the above referenced Landfill Site, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”), have worked to investigate, stop, and prevent certain chemical odors from emanating out into part of a residential neighborhood in Monroe Township. That neighborhood is known as Inwood Estates, consisting of portions of Michelle St., Lori St., and Lani St., close to the Landfill Site. As that investigation continues, leachate from the Landfill Site has spilled from various storage tanks and manholes into the residential neighborhood on four separate occasions, including today. This is unacceptable.

In order to temporarily eliminate chemical odors during the investigation, Republic ceased discharging leachate from the Landfill Site into the Township’s sewer collection system, and instituted a temporary procedure to store leachate in a series of storage tanks. The stored leachate is then pumped into tanker trucks and hauled to off-site facilities. On November 21, Republic reported a spill to the NJDEP of 200-800 gallons, and thereafter assured the Township that they were working to prevent similar incidents in the future. However, between December 24 and December 28, three more spill incidents occurred at the Landfill Site. These spills cannot continue to occur, and the operations at the Landfill require more aggressive regulatory oversight as you continue to develop a long-term solution.

I ask each of you to inform the Township, as soon as possible: At what point do these leachate spills require regulatory enforcement action, including fines or other penalties to the responsible party? At what point does the EPA and/or NJDEP take a more direct role in the day-to-day operation of the Landfill Site, considering the site has experienced four spills in a short period of time under current management?

Township officials and residents are understandably concerned about health and safety as a result of these spill incidents and the lack of a long-term solution three months into the investigation. I look forward to hearing from your teams as soon as possible regarding next steps.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Tamburro  
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  
Raphael Chavez-Fernandez, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Robert Menendez  
Pat Evangelista, Director, Superfund and Emergency Management, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
Dr. Paula McKeown, Chief of Staff, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
John Osolin, Remedial Project Manager, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
Rich Puvogel, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
Patricia Seppi, Community Involvement Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency  
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, New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Gwen Zervas, Section Chief, BCM, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
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