



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEWYORK, NY 10007-1866

December 30, 2020

Via Electronic Transmission

Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro  
1 Municipal Plaza  
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831

Dear Mayor Tamburro:

Thank you for your December 28, 2020 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Monroe Township Landfill site. I appreciated speaking with Kevin McGowan of your staff on Monday night regarding your letter and I share your concerns regarding the ongoing cleanup of the site and its impacts to the residents of Monroe Township. As you know, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has the lead role overseeing the party responsible for the Monroe Township Landfill operation and maintenance, Republic Services (Republic), acting on behalf of its subsidiary Browning-Ferris Waste Systems of New Jersey, Inc. EPA has stepped in to provide the State with support in this matter.

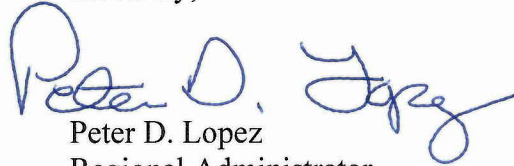
As you are aware, Republic's investigation of vapor emissions emanating from landfill leachate is ongoing. Republic recently submitted plans to address these emissions in the long term, which have been commented on by EPA, NJDEP and the township. These plans are currently being revised by Republic to address the comments and we expect to receive the revised plans in early January for review. To address vapor emissions and associated odors in the short-term, in September 2020, Republic temporarily halted discharge to the local sewer and began collecting and hauling leachate off site for appropriate disposal. It is during this temporary work that several leachate spills occurred in November and December. As the lead agency directly responsible for oversight of the site, NJDEP is the appropriate entity to direct Republic and/or initiate any appropriate enforcement actions if necessary.

NJDEP, EPA, and Monroe Township officials, met with Republic representatives at the landfill on December 29<sup>th</sup> and inspected the leachate collection and storage system. Republic was directed to immediately provide additional leachate storage capacity and controls to prevent further releases of leachate. Additional tanks began arriving that same afternoon and the remaining tanks were delivered and placed at the landfill on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. The additional tanks doubled the leachate storage capacity from 64,000 gallons to 128,000 gallons. To ensure adequate controls, Republic's contractor technicians are providing inspections of landfill manholes and pump stations and running pumps to move leachate to secured tanks throughout the day and overnight. Republic was also directed to increase the rate of off-site trucking of leachate, and as of Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, off-site trucking was increased to 11 trucks - from previously six to eight trucks per day (each truck ships 6,000 gallons of leachate). More than 12 trucks have been scheduled for leachate pick up on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

I truly understand the difficulties communities face as they work to protect the health and safety of their constituents. Please know that finding an immediate and permanent solution is a priority for EPA and I am personally working with my staff to resolve this issue.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, I will make myself available to discuss them with you at any time, including evenings and weekends. In addition, your staff may contact Pat Evangelista, Director of our Superfund and Emergency Management Division at [evangelista.pat@epa.gov](mailto:evangelista.pat@epa.gov) or (212) 637-4447 for any further questions.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Lopez  
Regional Administrator

cc:

Catherine McCabe, Commissioner, NJDEP  
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  
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  
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