

Monmouth County
Office of the County Administrator

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Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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September 25, 2020

Mr. Thomas Fallon, CPA, RMA
Acting Borough Administrator
Borough of Tinton Falls
556 Tinton Avenue
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Dear Mr. Fallon:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to supply you as the representative of Tinton Falls , on behalf of the County of Monmouth,with the monthly report that we discussed in our meeting of July 28, 2020. In that meeting we discussed, and agreed, that it would be helpful to you, the Borough officials and the public if the County were to provide you with a monthly report covering the activities at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center (MCRC) and related matters.

In this report covering July and August, 2020, I have addressed the issues, as appropriate, in accordance with your email request and confirmation of August 7, 2020. Further, I believe that it will be possible to supply you with a monthly update on or around the 15th of each month going forward.

I trust that you will find this report to be comprehensive and satisfactory. As we continue to communicate regarding the status of the projects and issues at the MCRC, should you require additional information, please let me know.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address the comments that were made to DEP in your review of the Phase 4 permit application, which was the impetus for the meeting in July. The County has emphasized and embraced communication with the Borough and its citizens. The Freeholder Director sent out, to anyone who expressed an interest, weekly updates as to projects and accomplishments taking place at the MCRC for over a year. It was during this period that it was vitally important to keep the public advised as to the steps that were being taken at the MCRC to mitigate and solve the issues that had been identified.

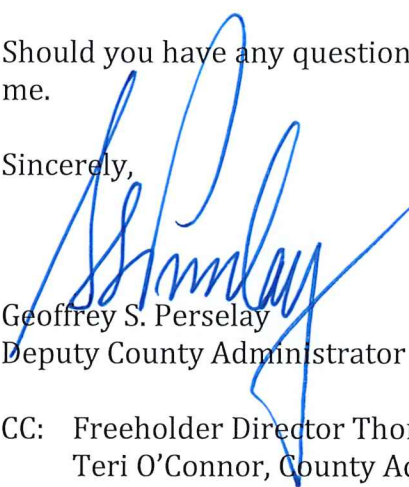
It was only when the pandemic became the priority and demanded that all essential personnel focus on safety and public health due to the spread of COVID-19 that the weekly updates ceased to be issued. However, the MCRC continued to work on the issues identified and solved those problems over the last several months.

Mr. Thomas Fallon
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As is stated in the attached report, the County is proud of the accomplishments that have been made over the last 18 months. I am pleased to resume the updates on a monthly basis in order to continue to keep communication lines open and keep you and your constituents up to date as to the events occurring at the MCRC.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey S. Perselay
Deputy County Administrator

CC: Freeholder Director Thomas Arnone
Teri O'Connor, County Administrator
Michael D. Fitzgerald, Esq., County Counsel

MONMOUTH COUNTY RECLAMATION CENTER

MONTHLY REPORT

COVERING JULY AND AUGUST 2020

JULY AND AUGUST 2020

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

1. LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT MODIFICATION

In November, 2018 the DEP issued an amended permit to the County of Monmouth which restricted the amount of leachate (liquid that is collected from the landfill) that can be processed on a daily basis, due to restrictions put in place on denitrification and the amount of gallons that can be processed, effective December 1, 2018. As a result, the County mothballed the plant in September, 2019 after finding that the denitrification and other restrictions made the continuation of the plant operation fiscally unfeasible. After a redesign to provide for additional supplementation of the plant, the County sought proposals for modifying the plant to achieve the new restrictions on the plant operation.

The County accepted three (3) proposals and selected Stone Hill Contracting as the vendor to provide value engineering services as well as construct the modifications. The contract is in the amount of \$2,884,000. There was a construction kick-off meeting on July 21, 2020 and the project is proceeding as planned. During the weeks of August 24, 2020 and August 31, 2020, over 180 piles were put in place as part of the foundation for the two (2) processing tanks that will be added to the plant. The project is anticipated to be completed by March 1, 2021.

2. GSF/MONTAUK GAS PROCESSING PLANT DEMOLITION

The most significant contributor to the odor issues that the MCRC faced was the lack of collection of the landfill methane gas due to a faulty landfill gas collection system. This was solely the responsibility of Montauk/GSF Energy as the company that had the contract since 2006. The County refused to extend the contract with GSF Energy for an additional period of time and, in response, GSF surrendered their contract and left the site on September 27, 2019. As a result, they have an obligation to remove the gas processing plant and associated systems and material within a year of the site being vacated. The demolition has commenced and will likely continue into late September or October. Hopefully, it will not continue later than that. While the County was concerned about noise, the demolition site is at the furthest point from any residential areas. We have not received any complaints about this project.

3. LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM

In 2019, the County replaced the most significant portions of the failed gas collection system, which led to a virtual immediate cessation of the landfill odors that had been so prevalent in late 2018 and early 2019. By Memorial Day, 2019, about 98% of all of the odors were gone due to the drilling of 50 wells and connecting them, on a temporary basis to the existing vacuum system. That system was replaced, to a significant degree, by the new landfill gas header system, which was been completed in December 2019.

During the months of June and July, the County had an additional 38 wells drilled which are tied into the new header system. In less than a year, the County has drilled almost 90 wells that are used to provide gas collection; liquid collection, which is now dewatering the landfill; and a vacuum system which replaced the previous system. This has resulted in virtually no odors in the community and the leachate seeps, which had been experienced in the past, are now drying up, adding to the solution which has eliminated the odors. This project cost \$1.6 million.

FLARES D and C

These two flares were used as backup gas processing facilities when the gas processing plant (which turned methane gas to electricity) was not functioning. Since September, 2019 when GSF abandoned the site, the processing plant has been shut down and all gas that is collected is currently being “flared” through Flare D. There have been times where Flare D has been taken off-line to make repairs and improve its operation.

Flare C is currently under reconstruction as it was left by GSF in a totally non-functional condition. This flare is located near the site of the former gas processing plant and will be refurbished within the next couple of months (waiting for parts to be shipped and received) and will act as a backup to Flare D when it is taken off-line for repairs or maintenance.

MAJOR ISSUES FACED DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

DEP NOTICES OF VIOLATION (NOVS): NONE

EMERGENCY RESPONSES/ISSUES THAT REQUIRED COMMUNICATION

FIRES: NONE

MAJOR LEACHATE LEAKS: NONE

ODOR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: 1 (not verified)

ODORS COMPLAINTS (VERIFIED): NONE

CONCERNS: Notification to Town of Tinton Falls

Flare D: Notification was provided to the Town regarding work on the emergency generator for the Flare which could have resulted in odors escaping. (8/18/20)

Gas Processing Plant Demolition: notification to Town that the plant was being demolished and there was the possibility of noise issues.

Leachate Treatment Plant Modification: notification to the Town that the foundation piling was going to be started and that it could be noisy. We did have two complaints from the noise. However, rather than an anticipated 6 week project, we completed it within 6 days and ended on August 31, 2020.

KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES: None

STATUS OF OPERATIONAL CHANGES:

After the County received Qualification Statements from two (2) firms that were interested in submitting proposals to Operate and Maintain the Monmouth County Reclamation Center the County issued an Request for Proposals (RFP) to both of those companies. The proposals were due July 14th, which was later extended to July 28, 2020. The County received one proposal with the other company dropping out of the competition.

The proposal that was received has been under review and internal discussion for the past several weeks. At this point in time, no decision has been made as to whether there will be an operational change.

FORWARD LOOKING EVENTS: The main events that will occur in future months this year and into 2021 are the following:

1. Continuation of the repairs of Flares C and D in order to maintain redundancy for flaring the methane gas from the landfill until a Gas Processing Plant can be built (target date for all flare work to be complete December 31, 2020);
2. Continuation and completion of the Leachate Treatment Plant Modification (target completion in February 2021).
3. Completion of the demolition of the gas processing plant utilized by GSF/Montauk (target October 1, 2020)
4. Phase 4 continues to be under review by NJ DEP. It is expected that DEP will be finalizing this stage of their review in the coming months and will issue a Technical Notice of Deficiency (TNOD) for any issues that they note need to be reviewed and addressed. Once received, the County will respond as rapidly as possible depending on the significance of the issues raised by DEP.

BOND ORDINANCES: On April 21, 2020 the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a Bond Ordinance providing \$8 million in capital funds for the following authorized projects: various improvements at the Reclamation Center

including but not limited to a) rebuilding Flare C; b) leachate seep improvements on the West Slope of Phase 3; (c) installation of wells; (d) improvements to the leachate plant; (e) installation of high density caps; (f) acquisition of equipment; and (g) the replacement of scales and removal of underground storage tanks.

As is evident from the previous description of activities at the MCRC, this Bond Ordinance has provided funding for these major projects.

OTHER ISSUES: The County is pleased that it has been able to stop the odors that were emanating from the landfill in late 2018 until May of 2019. The initial cause of the odors was thought to be a combination of factors which included leachate seeps, the slope repair (which opened up almost 11 acres of the landfill in order to reshape the slope), excessive rainfall and uncollected landfill gas. The County drilled 50 wells between March 4, 2019 and May 17, 2019 and connected them to the vacuum system that was in place from the collection system operated by GSF/Montauk Energy. Within days, of the completion of this work, the odors disappeared. The drilling of the wells and connection to the vacuum reinforced the engineering opinion that there were excessive amounts of uncollected gas in the Phase 3 landfill.

After that connection was established, the number of odor complaints dropped significantly to the point that as of January, 2020, the complaints dropped to less than one per week. For the past eight months there have been virtually no complaints regarding odors or anything related to the MCRC.

There are other sources of odors within the borders of the Borough of Tinton Falls. One of those is the Benoit Solid Waste Landfill/Recycling facility, 615 Green Grove Road. That facility has recently received a letter from DEP in response to their application to renew their Class B Recycling Center General Approval. This caused a site visit from DEP and they found that the landfill closure and post closure plan had not been approved in 1989 when submitted. Therefore, the closure and post closure steps taken in compliance with that plan were not effective and resulted in several issues that concern DEP, including excessive emissions of methane gas from leaking well caps. This facility is located in the Wayside section of Tinton Falls, which has been the source of many complaints (Please see attached).

The County has been very effective in the remediation activities that it has taken over the last eighteen (18) months. The MCRC has managed: the installation of an entirely new Landfill Gas Collection System; the improvement in the process and effectiveness of applying daily cover as required; the grading of areas of the landfill designed to shed rainfall rather than allow it to sit and penetrate the landfill and overhauled Flare D to insure that it is operating properly while totally rebuilding Flare C for a backup.

The County is meeting all of the commitments that it made to the public, to DEP and to the Borough of Tinton Falls and the surrounding communities. It is the County's intention to continue to improve the operation of the landfill and return to the status as a good neighbor in Tinton Falls.



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste

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SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

SEP 10 2020

Ronald M. Benoit
Mickey Benoit, Inc.
P.O. Box 310
Oakhurst, NJ 07755

Re: Benoit Solid Waste Landfill
Borough of Tinton Falls, Monmouth County
Preferred ID Number: 132438

Dear Mr. Benoit:

In coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection's review of the application for renewal of the Class B Recycling Center General Approval located at the referenced site, the Bureau of Solid Waste Permitting ("Bureau") reviewed its records regarding the above referenced sanitary landfill. Based on this review, the Bureau has determined that the sanitary landfill accepted solid waste for disposal after January 1, 1982, and does not appear to have been closed in accordance with the Solid Waste Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:26-2A-9.

During a site visit conducted on February 19, 2020, representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection met with you to inspect the property and relay information regarding the deficient items required to properly close the landfill. You then contended that the closure activities for the landfill were previously completed. Upon review of our files, a letter dated September 8, 1994 signed by Mr. Laurence French, P.E., Principal of French & Parrello Associates, P.A. (FPA) certified that based on an inspection dated December 6, 1990, all closure work was completed in accordance with the Closure and Post-Closure Care Plan ("Closure Plan") dated June 12, 1989, prepared by FPA. However, even though the proposed closure work was completed, due to the fact that the Closure Plan was deficient, it was never approved, and the facility still does not have an approved Closure and Post-Closure Plan as required by New Jersey Solid Waste Rules at N.J.A.C.7:26-2A.9.

In order to resolve this matter, the Bureau requests that you submit and/or perform the following items:

1. Since closure activities were approximately conducted between March of 1989 and December of 1990, and the fact that no inspection reports are available for this landfill, it is expected that varying weather conditions and recycling operations from past decades

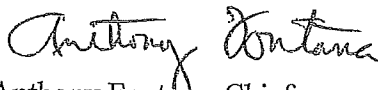
have altered the grading design of the final cover. For instance, during the February 19, 2020 site visit, ponding and rutting was observed in numerous areas within the landfill. Therefore, a topographic survey prepared by a New Jersey-licensed Land Surveyor shall be submitted to this Bureau for review to determine if the grading of the landfill remains in compliance with the previously submitted designs. If the current grading does not reflect the previously submitted design, either the landfill shall be filled and regraded as per the design or, if previous closure designs have been altered, an updated Closure and Post-Closure Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-2A.9(e) and an as-built drawing certified by a New Jersey-licensed professional engineer shall be submitted. The topographic survey shall be submitted to the Bureau within 90 days of the date of this letter.

2. According to our files, the most recent gas monitoring event was conducted by Birdsell Engineering, Inc., on April 23, 2007. Results indicated that methane concentrations were above the acceptable lower explosion limit in five (5) sample locations (MT-8, MT-15, MT-19, MT-44, and MT-45). Therefore, the Bureau requests that the owner conduct landfill gas monitoring at these five (5) specific locations. The landfill gas monitoring event shall be conducted during falling barometric pressure conditions. This event shall commence within 60 days of the date of this letter. A report of gas monitoring event shall be submitted to the Bureau within 90 days of the date of this letter.
3. Quarterly inspections of the landfill shall be conducted and include the final cover, final cover vegetation, side slopes, run-off controls, groundwater monitoring wells, and facility access controls. Inspection reports shall be submitted to the Bureau within 30 days after each inspection. The initial inspection shall be conducted no later than the 4th calendar quarter of 2020.
4. All broken groundwater monitoring well caps shall be repaired or replaced so that they can be completely closed and sealed. A lock shall be installed on each well in order to prevent unauthorized access. All wells shall be labeled with the appropriate Department well number. Well repairs shall be completed within 90 days of the date of this letter. The status of the repairs shall be documented in the above required inspection reports.
5. An updated Closure and Post-Closure Financial Plan, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-2A.9(f) that addresses the costs for potential groundwater monitoring well maintenance and replacements, final cover maintenance, inspections, potential methane monitoring, and groundwater sampling activities for the remainder of the post-closure care period of the landfill, shall be submitted to the Bureau within 90 days of receipt of this letter. The post-closure care period has yet to be determined, however, for the purpose of the Financial Plan, the period shall be at least two years from the date of submittal of the information required by this letter (For Item 3, this includes only the initial inspection report).

Please be advised that the Items listed above must also be addressed to fulfill Condition No. 42 of the Benoit Class B Recycling Center General Approval Renewal (Approval No. CBG190002) dated December 27, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Christina Rodriguez of my staff by telephone at (609) 984-6590, or by email at christina.rodriguez@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony Fontana, Chief
Bureau of Solid Waste Permitting

- c: Mary Arine Goldman, Env. Engineer 4, DEP – Bureau of Solid Waste Permitting
Tom Farrell, Chief, DEP – Bureau of Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement
John Stavash, Supervisor, DEP – Bureau of Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement
Frank Piliere, Env. Specialist 4, DEP – Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste
Christopher P. Merkel, Health Coordinator, Monmouth County Health Department
Stuart A. Newman, Solid Waste Coordinator, Monmouth County Reclamation Center