



Borough of Hillsdale

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John J. Ruocco, Mayor

Jan 8, 2018

Dear Fellow Residents,

As some of you may already know from having received a letter directly from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") in late December, the NJDEP has decided to issue a Solid Waste Facility Permit renewal to Waste Management Inc. ("WMI") to resume operation of the Hillsdale facility in our industrial zone. However, the letter stipulated that the renewal is pending the results of the Bergen County Utilities Authority ("BCUA") comprehensive review of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. The NJDEP took this step notwithstanding the fact that the Hillsdale waste transfer facility had been non-operational since February 2014 with no demonstrated negative consequences to either WMI or the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, and despite virtually unanimous opposition from residents in Hillsdale, and from elected officials and residents in Washington Township.

The Hillsdale Mayor & Council have actively and consistently argued for denial of the renewal permit for many months at the State level, and began to do the same at the County level when the NJDEP asked County Executive Jim Tedesco on July 5, 2017 to weigh in on the matter. He delegated the responsibility for review, quite understandably, to the BCUA.

I understood from meeting with the BCUA management on Nov 29 that the review of the County Solid Waste Management Plan had already begun and would take some time to complete since it would focus not just on WMI and Hillsdale, but all County waste transfer facilities. After the completion of that review, the BCUA could be in a position to recommend the deletion of WMI's Hillsdale facility from the Plan, especially because it has been more than two years since the Hillsdale facility was in use. In fact, it has nearly been four years since the transfer station operated.

Yesterday, the Hillsdale Borough Council decided that it would appeal the NJDEP's decision this week and request an adjudicatory hearing. At the same time, the Mayor & Council also will work actively in the coming weeks to insure that the BCUA understands your concerns and the reasons why a solid waste transfer station in Hillsdale is unnecessary and, in fact, harmful to the residents of Hillsdale and our neighbor, Washington Township.

On behalf of the Borough Council, I want to thank you for your continued support in this effort, and I promise to keep you informed of any significant developments.

John J. Ruocco, Mayor