



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

P.O. Box 534  
705 White Horse Pike  
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Combe Fill South

39838

December 1, 1980

Mr. William Slezak, Chief  
Permits Branch  
New York District Corps of Engineers  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Slezak:

This is in reference to a proposal by Combehill Landfill, Parker Road, Chester Township, Morris County, New Jersey, to expand their active sanitary landfill by approximately 100 acres in Chester and adjacent Washington Township. This proposal was brought to our attention by Mr. Joseph Rotola (201/285-6110) of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

The Fish and Wildlife Service is opposed to projects that destroy, damage or degrade fish and wildlife or their supporting ecosystems. Expanding Combehill Landfill by 100 acres would adversely impact two streams, Tanners Brook and Trout Brook, headwater tributaries of the Lamington (Black) River, a subbasin in the Raritan River Drainage. Trout Brook flows into Hacklebarney State Park and is classified as trout production waters by the State of New Jersey. Furthermore, according to our recent National Wetlands Inventory, much of the habitats along these tributaries contain palustrine wetlands. In addition, Combehill Landfill does not contain an impervious barrier to leachates. These leachates may be contaminating local groundwater sources.

This Service, therefore, requests that the Corps of Engineers investigate the proposed project, and, since stream and associated wetland habitats are involved, determine whether such construction is consistent with federal laws and regulations. By copy of this letter, we are requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also investigate the expansion of Combehill Landfill, specifically in regard to water quality degradation. ←

Please advise this office of your findings. If you desire an interagency field inspection, we suggest that the meeting should be attended by representatives of the EPA, SCS, the State of New Jersey Bureau of Solid Waste Management and Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, Chester and Washington Townships, Combehill Landfill and this Service.

Sincerely,

Oliver T. Edstrom  
Assistant Field Supervisor

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