

January 12, 1981

Mayor Edward Schields & Council  
Washington Township Municipal Building  
P. O. Box 216  
Long Valley, NJ 07853

Dear Mayor Shields & Council,

This letter is an appeal for your organization's support in connection with the most potentially devastating problem facing West Morris. As you are undoubtedly aware from reading the newspapers, there has recently been a significant amount of publicity involving the solid waste landfills in our area. Of particular concern to residents of West Morris is the landfill located on Parker Road in Chester and Washington Townships. The implications of this landfill are too numerous to cover in this letter; however, a few of the major considerations include:

- Unsafe levels of mercury and abnormally high levels of heavy metals have been identified in monitoring wells located at the dumpsite and, more recently, in nearby residential wells.
- The landfill does not have a protective liner to constrain the seepage of dangerous toxins. Moreover, soil samples taken in the area have demonstrated that soil conditions are "severe" (i.e., totally unsuitable) for use as a dumpsite.
- The landfill routinely accepts garbage from Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York, as well as New Jersey.
- With the scheduled 1981 closing of the Mt. Olive and New Jersey Meadowlands landfills, the bulk of the garbage previously deposited in these sites could be redirected to Chester and Washington Townships.
- The volume of garbage truck traffic along Parker Road and adjoining arteries, such as Routes 24, 206, 517 and 523, could easily increase four fold as other landfills are closed.
- Due to the unpredictable nature of groundwater flow patterns, the effects of landfill pollutants could surface in residential wells which are located many miles from the landfill.
- Most of the residents of Chester and Washington Townships depend upon residential wells as their sole source of water -- further evidence of the unsuitability of this area for a landfill.

West Morris H.A.L.T. (Help Avoid a Landfill Tragedy) is a citizens organization which was formed to keep the general public abreast of the effects of the landfill situation. H.A.L.T. is also seeking an acceptable solution to these problems.

H.A.L.T. is sponsoring its first public interest meeting at 8:00 pm on January 29, 1981 at the West Morris Regional High School

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auditorium. Public television stations will be on hand to cover this event. The evening's agenda includes: 1) film clips dealing with dumping disasters in New Jersey; 2) two speakers including Jim McCarthy from Jackson Township, NJ (you may have seen Mr. McCarthy in one of the television specials dealing with hazardous substances -- Killing Grounds I, Killing Grounds II, and Don't Drink the Water) and Daryl Caputo, a representative of the Upper Raritan Water Shed; 3) a question and answer period and; 4) a membership drive.

Your organization is hereby cordially invited to attend this January 29 meeting. H.A.L.T. requests that you make the members of your organization aware of this public rally by reading this letter at your next meeting. The best defense against our landfill problem is an educated and supportive public.

Your attention and consideration is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Edward Russo  
President, West Morris H.A.L.T.

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