

This
went
to →

Kegna

(FP)
9-10-81
(not us)

cc: Staller
Morales-Punchy 39846

157A East Valley Brook Road
Long Valley, New Jersey 07853
August 31, 1981

Frisco

Mr. James Fox
Solid Waste Administration
Department of Environmental
Protection
32 East Hanover Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Combe Fill South;
Chester and Washington Townships;
Morris County

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
NEW YORK, N.Y.
SEP 6 2 13 PM '81
DISTRICT CONTROL

Dear Mr. Fox:

I am writing this letter in response to recent statements that have been made by you and the Department in general regarding the water supply in the area of the above-mentioned landfill.

Your Department has stated that although there is contamination in the area of the landfill, the water is considered "safe to drink." Although this statement may be reassuring to some, it is not to me. At any possible moment, considering the present conditions at the landfill, the water in this area might be further contaminated. There is no way you can contain the contamination that is already in the ground; thus you have no choice but to immediately close and properly secure this landfill. Our water supply should not be judged in comparison to that of the water in other parts of the State. Chances are that our water was "clean" before this landfill came into existence. Allowing this landfill to operate can only make matters worse. Must we wait for another Jackson Township? As you know, the test results from the landfill and surrounding areas have caused the residents in the area to be concerned--not to mentioned scared--about the contamination of their well water. We have our largest investment in our homes, and we all believe that the market for homes located near a landfill that is polluting ground-water is nil.

100233

How you and your Department can allow a landfill that has been shown to be polluting water supplies and committing flagrant violations of the law to continue operations indicates the ineffectiveness of your Department. If the Department of Environmental Protection is to exist and continue to exist, it is up to them to make sure that the laws on the books are strictly enforced. Then, and only then, can you assure everyone in this State that the Department is actually protecting the environment. For your information, I cite the following examples of infractions of the law at the above landfill site:

1. Approximately three years ago, J. Filiberto sold this landfill to a Connecticut corporation, Combustion Equipment, and its name was changed to Combe Fill South. Since that acquisition this landfill has continued to be operated in a most unsatisfactory manner. Two years ago, the odor coming from this landfill was so bad that my neighbors, my family and I were nauseated. After walking up through the woods with a neighbor, we confirmed that the cause of these odors was coming from the landfill, and it was obvious that the garbage was not being properly covered. My husband, my newborn son and myself all stayed at relatives or closed up the house so that we would not be affected by these odors. Further, it is my understanding that the Washington Township Board of Health made a report of this violation (after they had noted it for themselves) and that the landfill operators insisted that they were covering the garbage, although eyewitnesses said that they were not.

2. Inspections have been made by health officials at the landfill and leachate has been found to be running towards the Filiberto's private property. The Department of Environmental Protection has been informed of this violation and has made an inspection. Nothing has been done. The major cause of this problem is the fact that the pump stations which pump the runoff leachate back to the top of the dumping area are not in operation. This condition has existed since 1979.

3. The landfill operators have been found to be dumping directly onto bedrock (which in some cases they have broken up). Leachate has been found to be directly seeping through the fractures in the bedrock into the water table. This is a flagrant violation, and nothing has been done.

4. The landfill operators are presently digging new cells or pits for the garbage. In the bottom of these pits is about six inches of water. Garbage is being dumped directly into these pits. Photographs have been taken of this condition. Obviously, this too is an infraction of the law and should be dealt with accordingly.

5. Currently, the landfill operators have hired a lumber company to clear away the area around the wetlands. A road runs right around the wetlands to areas where they have cleared away virgin land and where they intend to dump garbage. In the areas where they have already proceeded to dispose of garbage, there is a red liquid substance heading toward the wetlands. It should also be noted that the areas in which dumping is now taking place has been reported by experts to contain very porous soil. Thus, it is only a matter of hours or days until further contamination occurs.

We demand that this "dump" be closed immediately as no one should have to suffer as we are today. Your own experts state that this area would never be sited for a landfill today, yet this landfill is allowed to continue to operate without further safeguards being taken or the law being enforced. This is the United States, and we have a right to drink clean water. It is a financial hardship to keep buying bottled water and totally inexcusable for an agency of New Jersey to allow conditions to exist such as those stated above.

New Jersey is the most densely populated state, and it is time that your Department take a stand against anything or anyone that is polluting our environment. Do not let water being "a dying species."

Your Department's job is to protect our environment. That means that something should be done before it is too late, which it already may be. This landfill is over 30 years old and dumping regulations have only been in effect for less than 10 years. Who knows what was dumped there during the first 20 years of existence. The possibility of greater contamination in future years is too strong to ignore.

Remember that when you make a decision about this landfill, you are deciding who lives and who dies not only physically but financially as well. Many of us cannot even sleep at night because we feel that governmental authorities are not doing their job.

100235

Mr. James Fox
Page 4
August 31, 1981

I am expecting my second child in a few months. You are holding the keys to his or her future. Please show that we are a State that can handle our problems by closing down this catastrophic landfill.

Anxiously awaiting your reply and decision to close down and properly secure this landfill.

Sincerely,

Joy D. Baltycki

cc: Ms. Jerry English
Mr. Barker Hamill
Mr. Todder
Mr. Castner
Morris County Board of
Chosen Freeholders
Environmental Protection Agency
(Region II, New York)

100236