



State of New Jersey

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IN THE MATTER OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS
TO THE ADOPTED AND APPROVED SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE
HUNTERDON COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

CERTIFICATION
OF THE JUNE 23, 1998
AMENDMENT TO THE HUNTERDON COUNTY
DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER:

A. Introduction

The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq.) established a comprehensive system for the management of solid waste in New Jersey. The Act designated all twenty-one (21) of the state's counties, and the Hackensack Meadowlands District, as Solid Waste Management Districts, and mandated that the Boards of Chosen Freeholders and the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission develop comprehensive plans for waste management in their respective districts. On October 2, 1981, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP) approved, with modifications, the Hunterdon County District Solid Waste Management Plan (County Plan).

The Act requires that all district plans be based on and accompanied by a report detailing the existing waste disposal situation in the district, and a plan which includes the strategy to be followed by the district in meeting the solid waste management needs of the district for a ten-year planning period. The report must detail the current and projected waste generation for the district, inventory and appraise all facilities in the district, and analyze the waste collection and transportation systems which serve the district. The disposal strategy must include the maximum practicable use of resource recovery techniques. In addition to this strategy, the plan must designate sufficient available suitable sites for the disposal of the district's waste for a ten-year period.

The Act further provides that a district may review its County Plan at any time and, if found inadequate, a new County Plan must be adopted. The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders (County Freeholders) completed such a review and on June 23, 1998, adopted an amendment to its approved County Plan.

The amendment proposes County Plan inclusion of the Raritan Valley Disposal, Inc. materials recovery facility/transfer station to be located in Raritan Township, Hunterdon County.

Although the amendment was adopted on June 23, 1998, it was not considered administratively complete for review by the Department until October 2, 1998. Copies of the amendment were distributed to various administrative review agencies for review and comment, as required by law. The Department has reviewed this amendment and has determined that the amendment adopted by the County Freeholders on June 23, 1998 is approved as provided in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24.

B. Findings and Conclusions with Respect to the Hunterdon County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(1), I have studied and reviewed the June 23, 1998 amendment to the County Plan according to the objectives, criteria, and standards developed in the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan and I find and conclude that this plan amendment is consistent with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan. In this regard, the County Freeholders and the applicant are notified of the issues of concern relative to the June 23, 1998 which are included in Section B.2. below.

In conjunction with the review of the amendment, the Department circulated copies to fifteen administrative review agencies and solicited their review and comment. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(2) and (3), these agencies included various bureaus, divisions, and agencies within the DEP. All agencies contacted are as follows:

Division of Water Quality Management, DEP
Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP
Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP
Office of Air Quality Management, DEP
Green Acres Program, DEP
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management
Department of Agriculture
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
Department of Community Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1. Agency Participation in the Review of the June 23, 1998 Amendment

The following agencies did not object to the proposed amendment:

Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP

Department of Community Affairs
Department of Agriculture
Office of Air Quality Management, DEP

The following agencies did not respond to our requests for comment:

Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP
Division of Water Quality, DEP
Green Acres Program, DEP
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following agencies provided substantive comments as shown in Section B. of the certification document:

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP

2. Issues of Concern Regarding the June 23, 1998 Amendment

Issue: Regulatory Requirements

If any operation of a materials recovery facility/transfer station will discharge pollutants as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:14-1.9, said operation must secure a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and/or a Treatment Works Approval for pollutant discharges prior to operation.

Materials recovery facilities/transfer stations are subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:27-5, "Prohibition of Air Pollution." This regulation prohibits the release of odors and other air contaminants which interfere with the enjoyment of life and property.

Raritan Valley Recycling, Inc. is located in proximity to the floodplain of the Bushkill Brook. Avoidance and adequate buffering to the floodplain should be considered prior to further development of this site.

Issue: Historical Background For Raritan Valley Recycling

Raritan Valley Recycling, Inc. was initially included within the County Plan as a recycling center for Class A materials pursuant to the County's blanket inclusion policy for recycling centers. In an amendment dated December 27, 1994, Raritan Valley was included within the County Plan as recycling center for Class B materials. This amendment was certified on July 13, 1995.

C. Certification of the Hunterdon County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., specifically N.J.S.A. 13:1E-21, which establishes specific requirements regarding the contents of the district solid waste management plans, I have reviewed the June 23, 1998 amendment to the approved County Plan and certify to the County Freeholders that the June 23, 1998 amendment is approved as further specified below.

The County Plan inclusion of the Raritan Valley Disposal, Inc. materials recovery facility/transfer station to be located at Block 27, Lot 28, 79 River Road in Raritan Township, Hunterdon County is approved. Specifically, the facility proposes to accept up to a maximum of 300 tons per day of waste types 13, 13C, and 27 and a maximum of 175 tons per day of nonresidential waste type 10 (only commercial and institutional waste type 10). The facility shall make every reasonable effort to minimize the amount of putrescible waste contained in waste type 10 that shall enter the facility. Materials shall be accepted between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm on Saturdays. Access to the site will be from River Road and vehicles accessing the site will be prohibited from traveling on County Route 523 from the intersection with State Route 31 to the intersection with River Road.

The construction or operation of any solid waste facility shall be preceded by the acquisition of all necessary permits and approvals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., and all other applicable laws. This certification shall not be construed as an expression of the Department's intent to issue a solid waste facility permit for any proposed facility or operation. The issuance of operating permits pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Act is limited to those applicants found by the DEP and the Attorney General of the State of the New Jersey to be deserving of licensing under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-126.

Any solid waste/residue transferred/generated as a result of the operation of a transfer station/materials recovery facility shall be disposed of pursuant to the County Plan.

D. Other Provisions Affecting the Plan Amendment

1. Contracts

Any contract renewal or new contract for solid waste collection or disposal which is inconsistent with this amendment to the County Plan and which was executed prior to the approval of this amendment and subsequent to the effective date of the Solid Waste Management Act (July 29, 1977), and which shall further be for a term in excess of one year, shall immediately be renegotiated in order to bring same into conformance with the terms and provisions herein

set forth. Any solid waste collection operation or disposal facility registered by the Department and operating pursuant to a contract as herein described, shall be deemed to be in violation of this amendment and of the County Plan if such renegotiation is not completed within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this amendment provided, however, that any such registrant may, upon application to the Department, and for good cause shown, obtain an extension of time to complete such renegotiation.

2. Compliance

All solid waste facility operators and transporters registered with the Department and operating within the County and affected by the amendment contained herein shall operate in compliance with this amendment and all other approved provisions of the County Plan. Any facility operator or transporter who fails to comply with the provisions contained herein shall be deemed to be in violation of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:26-1 et seq., and in violation of their registration to operate a solid waste facility or a collection system issued thereunder by the Department and shall be subject to the provisions and penalties of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-9 and 12 and all other applicable laws.

3. Types of Solid Wastes Covered by the District Solid Waste Management Plan

The provisions of the District Plan shall apply to all solid wastes defined in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and N.J.A.C. 7:26-2.13 including waste types 10, 13, 23, 25, and 27 and all applicable subcategories and shall not apply to liquid and hazardous waste. All nonhazardous materials separated at the point of generation for sale or reuse are subject to regulation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1 et seq.

4. Certification to Proceed with the Implementation of the Plan Amendment

This document shall serve as the certification of the Commissioner of the Department to the County Freeholders and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24c. and f., the County shall proceed with the implementation of the approved amendment certified herein.

5. Definitions

For the purpose of this amendment and unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions of terms shall be the same as those found at N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and -99.12, N.J.A.C. 7:26-1.4, -2.13, and N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.3.

6. Effective Date of the Amendment

The amendment to the County Plan contained herein shall take effect immediately.

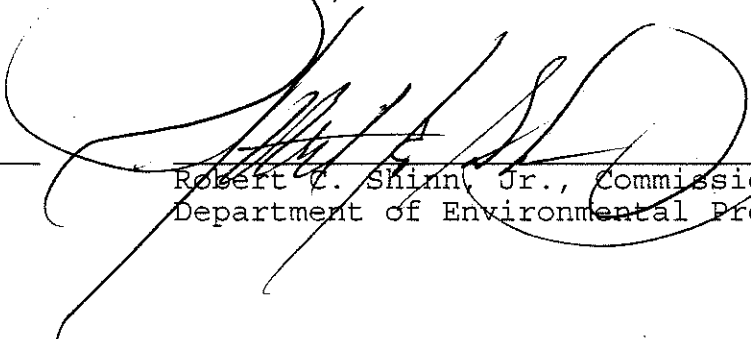
7. Reservation of Authority

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a limitation on any other action taken by the Department pursuant to its authority under the law. The County Plan, including any amendment made thereto, shall conform with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan, with appendices, which includes the Department's planning guidelines, rules, regulations, orders of the Department, and also includes the compilation of individual district plans and amendments as they are approved.

E. Certification of Approval of the Amendment by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., I hereby approve the amendment, as outlined in Section C. of this certification, to the Hunterdon County District Solid Waste Management Plan which was adopted by the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders on June 23, 1998.

2/3/99
Date


Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection