



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Department of the Environment



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Joseph P. Gill
Director

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Todd M. Turner
Council Chair
Prince George's County Council
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Council Chair Turner:

This letter is in response to the discussion items at the hearing on CB-50-2020 on September 8, 2020.

Sierra Club ("SC") July 20, 2020 Letter

The Department of the Environment (DoE) is pleased to see the SC's general support for the Plan. In the body of its letter, SC raises several issues. First, it suggests that there are methane fugitive emissions at the Brown Station Road Sanitary landfill based upon the results of studies conducted five years ago by University of Maryland researchers. We do not agree, for two reasons. The research measured 11 of 14 sources of methane in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and concluded that all landfills in Maryland - not just Brown Station Road - had methane emissions that were greater than both EPAs and the State of Maryland's estimated emission rates. Because the report mentioned Brown Station, we contacted the researchers and requested a meeting but did not receive a response. In the meantime, the State considers our reporting and results as compliant.

SC asks for a timetable for expansion of the residential food waste collection program. DoE initiated a small, 200 home pilot study using an EPA grant in 2017-18. The results of study - ease of access and rate of participation - were positive. The next step in the program is to expand the small pilot to 3,000 residents to assess participation rates and satisfaction county-wide.¹ The roll out will occur after the first of the year with evaluation and assessment continuing.

Finally, SC has submitted an extensive set of "micro-comments." DoE responds to these comments, and those submitted by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, in **Attachment A**. Some of those comments and corrections may be incorporated as amendments to the Ten-Year Solid Waste Plan. DoE's concurrence is noted where applicable.

Landfill Area Impact

DoE was asked to produce a map of the area adversely impacted by the Area C infill project and the number of residents who take advantage of the tax credit rebate. **Attachment B** is a map depicting the two areas near the Brown Station Road landfill identified in the County Code as eligible for of a tax credit, grandfathered to residents in 1987. There are currently 42 households that annually apply for this credit. The amount of the credit is \$236.55. Attachment B shows the total number of residences in these areas.

¹ Participation rates nationally vary widely. *2017 BioCycle Residential Food Waste Collection Access Study*.

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Status of the LFG Pipeline Replacement Project

This project has achieved 30% design development and with cooperation from the Public Service Commission, anticipated a completion is September 2021.

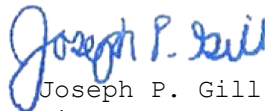
Litter

DoE was asked to provide information on how the County responds to increased litter near the landfill. Currently, DoE collects litter within the vicinity of the landfill on an as-needed basis. No litter complaints have been received.

Plan of Action

DoE was asked to provide a more comprehensive "Plan of Action" in Chapter 5. Chapter 5 is a short summary of the actions already described, in detail, in other Chapters and Appendices. All those actions together represent the elements of the updated Plan. A single summary is not necessary to meet the technical, regulatory requirements of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this response.

Sincerely,


Joseph P. Gill
Director

Attachments

cc: Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
for Governmental Infrastructure, Technology and Environment

J. Kenneth Battle, Jr., Director
Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee/Council

Marilyn E. Naumann, Associate Director
Resource Recovery Division, DoE

Timothy B. Richards, Deputy Associate Director
Resource Recovery Division, DoE

Darryl L. Flick, Special Assistant to the Associate Director
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