



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

December 19, 2013

Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens
c/o Mr. Keith Ligon, Chairman
15501 Moravia Court
Derwood, MD 20855-2716

Dear Mr. Ligon:

Thank you for meeting with me on November 18, 2013, with other members of the Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens (GLCC) to discuss remediation of the Gude Landfill and potential land reuse options. I greatly appreciate the time that GLCC has devoted to working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its technical consultant on these issues and am pleased that together we have reached the same conclusions on the next steps to be taken by the County in addressing these issues.

As I discussed with you at our meeting, I have reviewed the Gude Landfill Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) Report prepared by EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc., which outlines a range of remediation options and evaluates five specific alternatives in detail from a technical and cost perspective. I plan to recommend to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) that the County implement the corrective measures identified as "Alternative 5" in the report because this approach best meets the County's needs from both a technical and cost perspective and minimizes community impacts.

Alternative 5 requires implementation of the following measures: (1) enhanced bioremediation to reduce groundwater contaminants; (2) additional landfill gas collection to control gas migration; and (3) cover system improvements to decrease the occurrence of leachate seeps. Alternative 5 is discussed in Section 5.5 of the ACM Report and a proposed work plan for implementation of Alternative 5 is outlined in Appendix G to the ACM Report. Both documents can be found on DEP's website for the "Gude Landfill Remediation Project" under the link to "MDE Approvals, Plans and Consent Order."

Alternative 5 proposes an adaptive management approach to the remediation, and if approved by MDE, corrective measures will be initiated, monitored closely and adjusted to ensure that they are improving groundwater quality and reducing gas migration and leachate seeps. While Alternative 5 is based on proven technology, its pace of effectiveness will be determined by the unique characteristics of the Gude Landfill. Enhanced bioremediation will occur in two phases, with the first phase conducted in a limited area during the first three to five

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years and lessons learned during that period applied to remediation plans for the rest of the landfill during the second phase.

The enhanced bioremediation component of Alternative 5 will be implemented by drilling wells through waste to the soil, bedrock and groundwater below the landfill and injecting a food source for microorganisms to accelerate and enhance their ability to break down pollutants in the groundwater. Typically, bioremediation injection wells are not constructed within the waste footprint – i.e., drilled through the trash. However, because the waste footprint at the Gude Landfill approaches the landfill's property boundary, we hope to use this innovative approach rather than conducting extensive waste relocation. Waste relocation, as outlined in other options, would be expensive and create a significant and lengthy disturbance to the surrounding community relating to vehicle traffic, equipment noise, odor and dust.

The installation of additional landfill gas collection will better control gas migration and cover system improvements will minimize leachate seeps on the side slopes. There is also the possibility that MDE, based on specific results from our remediation efforts, may direct us to make adjustments to our plans or use other technologies as we move forward with remediation.

At our meeting, we also discussed potential land reuses at the Gude Landfill site and the community's desire for passive recreational uses such as running/walking trails, garden plots, a dog park, a children's play area, a model plane flying area and a picnic area. We agreed that some passive uses may be feasible to implement during the first three to five years of remediation as long as the use can be adjusted to accommodate refinements or changes in the remediation efforts. Once MDE approves the ACM Report and recommended corrective measures, we will work closely with the community, as we have throughout this process, to explore possibilities for design and placement of some of these passive uses to the extent that they are consistent with the planned remediation activities. With respect to long-term reuse of the site, the County has not yet developed long-term plans and I think it is best that we defer those decisions until the first phase of the remediation is complete and decisions have been made regarding remediation of the rest of the landfill. We should then evaluate what we have learned about requirements and impacts during remediation and revisit the community's concerns and desires before any long-term reuse recommendations are made.

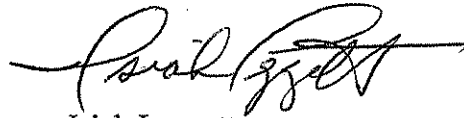
The deadline for submitting my recommended remediation alternative to MDE is January 31, 2014. Before submitting my recommendation to MDE, I will provide it to the County Council for review and comment. DEP staff will work with Council to address any issues or concerns.

Again, we greatly appreciate GLCC's contributions to our remediation efforts thus far and look forward to working with GLCC in partnership as we move forward on this project. I

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hope that you will continue to keep me apprised of your community's issues and concerns. Please contact Dan Locke, Chief, Division of Solid Waste Services, DEP at 240-777-6402 or dan.locke@montgomerycountymd.gov with any questions or comments on this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isiah Leggett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

RGH:dl

cc: Bob Hoyt, Department of Environmental Protection
Kathleen Boucher, Department of Environmental Protection
Dan Locke, Department of Environmental Protection
Peter Karasik, Department of Environmental Protection