

2002-01

RECEIVED

MAY 7 2002

PLANNING ADMINISTRATION



Fred Schram

Chief of Staff

Date: 5/2/02

To: Ron Bowen, Denis Conner
Bob Walker

The attached papers are referred for the purpose indicated by the check:

- ☐ Please advise.
- ☐ Please answer, sending me copy of your response.
- ☐ Please see me about this.
- ☐ Please prepare a reply for County Executive Owens' signature.
- ☐ Please take charge of this.
- ☐ To be signed.
- ☐ Please take charge and report disposition.
- ☐ Your comments please.

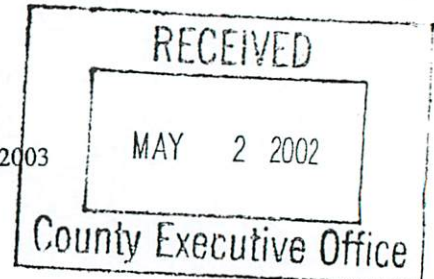
☒ FYI

Remarks: _____

Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 477, Odenton, Maryland 21113-0477

April 27, 2003



Mr. Kassa Kebede
Project Geologist
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
2500 Broening Highway
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Re: Proposed Chesapeake Terrace Landfill

Dear Mr. Kebede:

It is the Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Association (FOTPIA) Board of Directors' understanding that certain reports were sent out to all state and county government agencies who would have an interest in this proposed landfill. We believe that they were requested to review and comment on the reports by March 6, 2002. At this time, we would like to know which Anne Arundel County agencies were sent reports and which did or did not respond.

In a conversation that I had with someone from your agency, I was told that Anne Arundel County did not respond to your request. Please advise as to whether or not this is an accurate statement.

Since the Maryland Historical Trust is very interested in several sites in our community, we are particularly interested in knowing if they were on your list of government agencies to receive notification of this proposed landfill. If they were included, could you please give me the name of the individual who was notified and advise as to whether or not they did respond? If they were not included, could you please let me know why?

On behalf of our community association and our Board of Directors, I would appreciate receiving any responses that you received from all agencies.

Enclosed please find an article that was published in the West County Newspaper on Thursday, April 25, 2002, concerning well water contaminated by a leak at the Millersville Landfill. It is situations like this that occur over and over again, that make the general public skeptical that landfills are safe. MDE cannot assure us that this won't happen at the Chesapeake Terrace Landfill. By the time these leaks are discovered, it is too late. How many people drinking this water will now have health problems in the future; perhaps cancer? How can MDE officials or any other government agency, in good conscience, tell us that we have nothing to worry about?

I can be reached at 301-286-7720 during the day and 410-721-5181 evenings.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

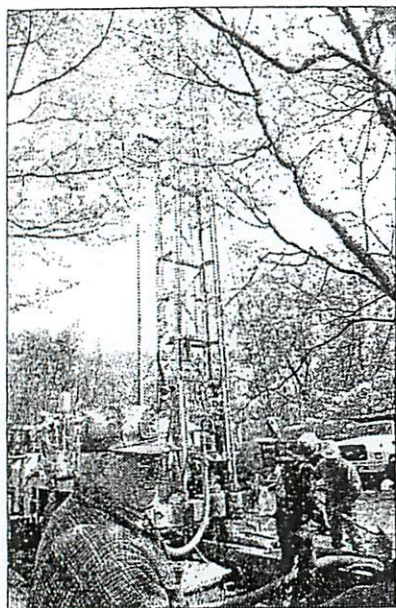


Cathy Fleshman
Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Assoc.
Board of Directors

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Collins, MDE
Mr. Edward Dexter, MDE
The Honorable Jane Nashida, MDE
Dr. Andrew Sawyers, Community &
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Lt. Governor, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
County Executive Janet Owens, AA Co.
Ms. Linda Schuett, AA Co. Office of Law
Senator Robert Neall
Delegate Janet Greenip, District 33
Delegate David Boschert, District 33
Delegate Robert Baldwin, District 33
Councilman Bill Burlison, 4th District
Councilman John Klocko, 7th District
Congressman Wayne Gilchrest
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Ms. Donna Ware, Historical Trust
Mr. Richard Klein
Mr. Macy Nelson, Esquire

County digs \$600K deep into pocket



RIGHT: Linda K. Currier, solid waste operations manager of waste management services at the **Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility**, looks out over the 565-acre, state-of-the-art site. County workers are replacing 10 private wells on or near Gambrills Road, which have tested positive for the toxin Freon.



ABOVE: Bynum Burnopp, who lives on Gambrills Road, watches as county workers replace his well.

Photos by Steve Fears — West Co

Money dolled out for 10 new wells after contamination

BY SCOTT BURKE
Staff Writer

The county will spend \$600,000 to replace 10 private wells in the Gambrills area after finding traces of Freon contamination from its nearby landfill.

County officials said the amount of the refrigerant found in the shallow wells is far below the limit for healthy consumption.

But Linda K. Currier, solid waste operations manager of waste management services at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility, said the wells are being replaced with much deeper ones to prevent potential problems.

"I think we've been successful in being a good neighbor," Ms. Currier said.

Freon was discovered in the wells on or near Gambrills Road last year during regular, semi-annual tests. The highest amount found was 18 parts per billion. The standard, set by the county but approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment, is 1,000 parts per billion.

There is no federal standard for Freon, although sale of the chlorofluorocarbon is tightly regulated to reduce its harmful effects on the atmosphere.

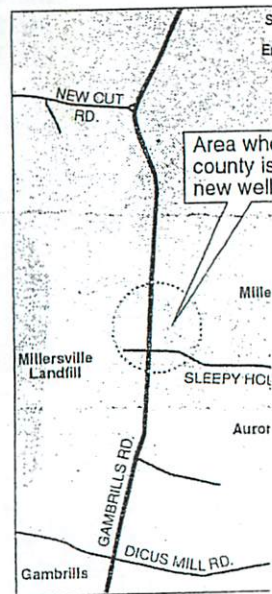
Ms. Currier said it's county policy to replace any private wells near the landfill that have tested positive for Freon with deeper wells. The wells should be running by July, said Robert A. Demarco, facility operations manager of waste management services at the landfill.

They are currently drilling at least 170 feet deep; residents' existing wells are 70- to 130-feet deep.

Landfill officials have concluded these deeper wells will not contract Freon or any other toxin after conducting a series of tests on their own wells.

Meanwhile, the Maryland Department of the Environment is trying to determine whether two brothers are responsible for contaminating at least six Gambrills-area wells with a gasoline additive.

Bernard and Frank Pyles, who live at separate homes on Dicus Mill Road, have until tomorrow to pay for environmental tests on their properties to determine whether



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WELLS

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they are the source of the contamination, MDE spokesman Rich McIntire said.

MTBE — methyl tertiary-butyl ether — has been discovered in five wells, including Frank Pyles' well on Dicus Mill Road and another on Ashburton Drive. State officials are testing others in the Aurora Hills neighborhood, which is just north of Gambrills.

MTBE is added to gasoline to make it burn more cleanly, and has been used for the past decade to reduce smog levels in cities with severe air pollution, such as Baltimore and Washington.

But the additive can be harmful to people if swallowed. MTBE is a "probable human carcinogen," according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

State officials began testing the five wells on Dicus Mill Road after a woman reported an unusual smell in her water in January.

Mr. McIntire wasn't able to identify the woman, or the owners or location of the other possibly contaminated wells.

Mr. Pyles' well had the highest reading, 108 parts per billion, leading MDE officials to believe his property could be the source. The reading was well above the state's recommended limit of 20 to 40 parts per billion, Mr. McIntire said. State officials told him not to drink from the well.

The other four wells' readings on his road were below the limit, so the MDE said the water from them is still drinkable.

The compound usually seeps into the groundwater from failing underground gasoline storage tanks or gasoline spills.

The county also continues to

deal with its Freon problem. The Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility replaced four wells in 1995 because of Freon, found in refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioners. The Freon is flowing down from a large cell, filled with 7.2 million cubic yards of waste, on the 565-acre landfill. The cell was built in the 1980s, before the federal government mandated all cells contain a double synthetic liner in 1992.

"It's no surprise that we have some contaminants moving," Ms. Currier said.

The completely filled cell is no longer in use and capped with a thick, clay liner. The county discovered Freon leakage in 1993 when it tested its on-site wells.

Over the next few years, officials extended their testing to private wells along Gambrills Road and discovered the toxin in four others, which they eventually replaced in 1995.

Landfill officials now test 30 wells in the neighborhood twice a year.

Mr. Demarco said they also talk many times with the homeowners to inform them when they are going to be conducting tests and replacing wells.

"Everyone in the area we have personally come to their door, sampled their water, sat at their kitchen tables. We're going to great lengths," he said.

Pauline Wyatt, who lives on Gambrills Road, said she is happy to receive a new well.

"I think it's a very good thing," she said. "They've been courteous and nice."

Robert Heath, who also lives on Gambrills Road, said he wanted the county to replace his well sooner.

For the last 10 years, he said his water has had a bad taste, which he thinks could be the result of the landfill.