

2002-03

Copy: Jim Cannell
Hamilton Tyler



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Merrylin Zaw-Mon
Acting Secretary

JUN 17 2002

Mr. Robert J. Meyer
1576 Meyer Station Road
Odenton MD 21113-2306



Dear Mr. Meyer:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Parris N. Glendening regarding the proposed Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill located near Odenton, Anne Arundel County. The Governor has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Governor Glendening has long supported the citizen's efforts to ensure the safety of rubble landfills. In 1997, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) promulgated regulations that increased the requirements for rubble landfills to help protect communities from the environmental impacts that you have described. To better define the groundwater flow regimes in the area, all proposed rubble landfills are now required to perform more sophisticated geological investigations. They must also be designed with liners and leachate collection systems to help prevent any impact on local water resources. Also, with respect to the wetlands, and related issues that you raised, please note that this project has already been reviewed and permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which has jurisdiction over activities in wetlands and received a Water Quality Certification from MDE's Water Management Administration. The landfill activities will be restricted only to upland portions of the property, and other disturbance to wetlands is required to be minimized.

There have been many concerns raised about the way in which this proposed landfill could impact the community. The application process for such facilities described in the enclosed fact sheet consists of several steps that are intended to ensure that the public health and the environment surrounding the facility will be protected. At this time, the Chesapeake Terrace facility is early in the application process, as we have yet to review updated hydrogeologic and engineering reports. Therefore, we do not yet have enough information to make any determination concerning the suitability of the design of this facility. However, the concerns about the environment that you have raised will be considered once we have received all the pertinent information.

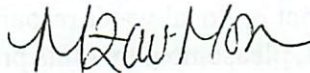
Mr. Robert J. Meyer

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Please note that many of the issues concerning non-environmental impacts to the community that you raised are under the purview of Anne Arundel County government, not the State of Maryland. In the case of this facility, the applicant for the landfill sued the County over their decision to rescind the zoning special exception that had been granted to this project. As a result of this case, the County is currently under Court order to provide the necessary local approvals concerning zoning and land use, and did so in a letter from Mr. Denis Canavan, Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Officer, on June 16, 2001. Those approvals are required by law before the Department can proceed with the application review. MDE was not a party to this suit, so you may wish to contact Mr. Canavan or his staff at (410) 222-7450 for more information.

Thank you again for your letter. The Governor appreciates hearing from you and, on his behalf, I also thank you for your interest in this very important issue. If we may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Richard Collins, Director of the Waste Management Administration, at (410) 631-3304.

Sincerely,



Merrylin Zaw-Mon
Acting Secretary

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Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Mr. Denis Canavan ✓