



TOWN OF COLONIE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Public Operations Center
347 Old Niskayuna Road
Latham, New York 12110

Paula A. Mahan
Supervisor

John H. Cunningham
Commissioner

May 26, 2016

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hon. Kathleen A. Marchione
Senator, 43rd District
State of New York
LOB 918
Albany, NY 12247

Re:Town of Halfmoon

Dear Senator Marchione:

This letter is in response to your April 25, 2016 letter to Capital Region Landfills, Inc., the operator of the Town of Colonie's landfill. In your letter, you indicated your support for the recent request by the Town of Halfmoon Supervisor, Kevin Tollisen, to place large balloons at the site of the proposed Area 7 Development as a visual aid to demonstrate its proposed full build out. Supervisor Tollisen would like the demonstration to occur at the beginning of the SEQR public comment period, which has not yet commenced.

We understand the community's desire for information regarding the potential visual impact of the proposed landfill project. During the public scoping process we identified the impacts to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS"). The potential visual impacts are addressed in Section II.G of the Scope, which describes existing conditions, potential impact, anticipated information necessary to address the impact, and initial identification of mitigation measures. The Scope states:

"To document that the character of the surrounding views of the proposed Area 7 Development will be consistent with the currently permitted landfill development, the DEIS will present photo-enhancements from five perspectives to illustrate the future view toward the landfill from five (5) locations. The view from each perspective location will be enhanced to illustrate the currently permitted landfill geometry at full development. A second enhancement will be prepared to illustrate the proposed Area 7 Development at full development for comparison."

The DEIS contains state-of-the-art visual simulations (also known as photo-enhancements) from the five viewpoints determined during scoping, as well as an additional viewpoint determined to be appropriate during the performance of the DEIS evaluation. These enhancements were prepared by an experienced visual analyst at Saratoga Associates, a consulting firm known for its expertise in visual assessment.

At this point, the Town has submitted the DEIS to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC"). NYSDEC is completing their review of the Town's permit applications. Once NYSDEC is satisfied that it has received all information necessary for public review, NYSDEC will publish notice of a public comment period for the DEIS.

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2016

TOWN OF HALFMOON
Office of the Supervisor



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During its review of the DEIS, NYSDEC requested the Town submit information regarding proposed plantings that will help to camouflage the landfill after closure so that it blends in with the surrounding terrain. NYSDEC also requested a mitigation planting plan and a project visualization to show how the landfill is expected to look once the planting mitigation plan is implemented. Further, NYSDEC requested the Town prepare an additional series of simulations to represent conditions at approximately 10 years after beginning the proposed Area 7 operations. The Town has provided this additional information to NYSDEC.

All SEQR documentation, including the DEIS currently being reviewed by NYSDEC, can be found on the Town's website at www.townofcolonielandfill.com.

We are aware that balloons have been used in the past to assess the scale and height of a project. We believe that this approach is not as valuable as the visual simulations of the proposed project as contained in the DEIS. Visual simulation is a highly valued technological tool that provides a detailed methodology and yields higher quality information for the public to consider. It is our understanding that balloons are an older and less effective technology that will yield limited information as compared to the simulations that have been prepared.

Before designing an environmental study to assess a potential impact, an applicant must gather all available comments so that the study's objective is clear and the study is designed to achieve that objective. As the applicant, the Town of Colonie will work with NYSDEC to provide additional relevant information requested to assess the impact of the Area 7 development. We believe this approach will provide consistency and ensure that all interested parties to the SEQR process are heard.

We appreciate your concerns regarding the proposed landfill development and are available to meet to with you to discuss the environmental impact review process in further detail. Please feel free to contact me at 783-6292

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John H. Cunningham
Commissioner of Public Works

cc: Hon. Paula A. Mahan, Colonie Town Supervisor
Hon. Kevin Tollisen, Halfmoon Town Supervisor