



State of New Jersey

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IN THE MATTER OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS
TO THE ADOPTED AND APPROVED SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE
SALEM COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

CERTIFICATION
OF THE JANUARY 15, 1997
AMENDMENT TO THE SALEM COUNTY
DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER:

A. Introduction

The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq.) established a comprehensive system for the management of solid waste in New Jersey. The Act designated all twenty-one (21) of the state's counties, and the Hackensack Meadowlands District, as Solid Waste Management Districts, and mandated that the Boards of Chosen Freeholders and the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission develop comprehensive plans for waste management in their respective districts. On February 11, 1981, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP) approved, with modifications, the Salem County District Solid Waste Management Plan (County Plan).

The Act requires that all district plans be based on and accompanied by a report detailing the existing waste disposal situation in the district, and a plan which includes the strategy to be followed by the district in meeting the solid waste management needs of the district for a ten-year planning period. The report must detail the current and projected waste generation for the district, inventory and appraise all facilities in the district, and analyze the waste collection and transportation systems which serve the district. The disposal strategy must include the maximum practicable use of resource recovery techniques. In addition to this strategy, the plan must designate sufficient available suitable sites for the disposal of the district's waste for a ten-year period, which sites may be in the district or, if none are available, in another district. (The Act provides procedures for reaching any necessary interdistrict agreements.)

The Act further provides that a district may review its County Plan at any time and, if found inadequate, a new County Plan must be adopted. The Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders (County Freeholders) completed such a review and on January 15, 1997, adopted an amendment to its approved County Plan.

The amendment designates the site of the former Salem City landfill as the location of a recycling center for Class B materials (subject to certain operating conditions). Specifically, Soil Safe, Inc. will process at this site petroleum contaminated soil classified as solid waste type 27 for the exclusive purpose of constructing a final cap at the Salem City landfill.

The amendment was received by the Department on February 28, 1997, and copies were distributed to various administrative review agencies for review and comment, as required by law. The Department has reviewed this amendment and has determined that the amendment adopted by the County Freeholders on January 15, 1997 is approved as provided in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24.

B. Findings and Conclusions with Respect to the Salem County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(1), I have studied and reviewed the January 15, 1997 amendment to the County Plan according to the objectives, criteria, and standards developed in the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan and I find and conclude that this plan amendment is consistent with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan. In this regard, the County Freeholders and the applicant are notified of the issues of concern regarding the January 15, 1997 amendment which are included within Section B.2. below.

In conjunction with the review of the amendment, the Department circulated copies to fifteen administrative review agencies and solicited their review and comment. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(2) and (3), these agencies included various bureaus, divisions, and agencies within the DEP. All agencies contacted are as follows:

Division of Water Quality, DEP
Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP
Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP
Office of Air Quality Management, DEP
Green Acres Program, DEP
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Department of Agriculture
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
Department of Community Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management

1. Agency Participation in the Review of the January 15, 1997 Amendment

The following agencies did not object to the proposed amendment:

Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP
Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP
Division of Water Quality, DEP
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Department of Agriculture
Department of Community Affairs
Pinelands Commission

The following agencies did not respond to our requests for comment:

Office of Air Quality Management, DEP
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP
Green Acres Program, DEP
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management

The following agency provided substantive comments as shown in Section B. of the certification document:

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP

2. Issues of Concern Regarding the January 15, 1997 Amendment

Issue: Historical Background of the Class B Recycling Center

The City of Salem in Salem County operated a municipal landfill on 50+ acres adjacent to the Salem River. The landfill ceased operation in 1988 and has not been properly capped. Soil Safe, Inc. has been operating a process at the site of the landfill which produces capping materials for capping the closed landfill without burdening taxpayers with the estimated \$3.8 million that a traditional cap is estimated to cost. Soil Safe, Inc. initially anticipated the project to be of limited duration and in January 1996 DEP issued a limited (six month) approval to operate a recycling center for Class B materials on the site of the Salem City landfill. A subsequent limited approval was granted to continue the project but the site of the operation was moved across the street (a limited approval may not be issued for consecutive six month periods at the same site). A third limited approval has been issued by the DEP to allow the operation to return to the landfill site and to cover the time period up to the certification of this amendment at which time the Department may issue a general

approval to operate a recycling center for Class B materials at the site of the landfill.

Issue: Conditions of Operation for the Class B Recycling Center

The January 15, 1997 amendment, in addition to including the Soil Safe, Inc. recycling center at the Salem City Landfill, specifies 16 conditions of operation for this facility. These same conditions of operation are also the subject of a separate agreement between the Salem County Utilities Authority (SCUA) and Soil Safe, Inc. As noted in Section C. of this certification, the Department approves the County Plan inclusion of the Soil Safe, Inc. Class B recycling center. However, Section C. notes that since the conditions of operation contained within the amendment are also the subject of separate agreement between SCUA and Soil Safe, Inc., they are, therefore, not part of this certification.

Issue: Regulatory Requirements

If any operation of a recycling center will discharge pollutants as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:14-1.9, said operation must secure a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and/or a Treatment Works Approval for pollutant discharges prior to operation.

Recycling centers are subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:27-5, "Prohibition of Air Pollution." This regulation prohibits the release of odors and other air contaminants which interfere with the enjoyment of life and property. Also, recycling centers are subject to the regulations set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1 et seq., which includes but is not limited to the operational standards and general rules for recycling centers which receive, store, process, or transfer Class A and Class B recyclable materials.

C. Certification of the Salem County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., specifically N.J.S.A. 13:1E-21, which establishes specific requirements regarding the contents of the district solid waste management plans, I have reviewed the January 15, 1997 amendment to the approved County Plan and certify to the County Freeholders that the January 15, 1997 amendment is approved as specified below.

The County Plan inclusion of the designation of the site of the former Salem City landfill as the location of a recycling center for Class B materials is approved. Specifically, Soil Safe, Inc. will process at this site petroleum contaminated soil classified as solid waste type 27 for the exclusive purpose of constructing a final cap at the Salem City landfill. Also, as noted in Section B., the amendment contains specific conditions of operation for this facility which are the subject of separate agreement between

SCUA and Soil Safe, Inc. and are, therefore, not part of this certification.

This certification shall not be construed as an expression of the Department's intent to issue a recycling center approval to any recycling center for Class B recyclable materials. A recycling center approval shall only be granted where the applicant has submitted an administratively complete application, as per N.J.A.C. 7:26A-3.5, where all substantive criteria for approval set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:26A-3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 are satisfied, where a fee has been paid in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26A-2, and where none of the criteria for denial of a recycling center approval are met, as per N.J.A.C. 7:26A-11 and 12.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26A-4.1(a)1.iii., Class B recyclable materials may be commingled only with other Class B recyclable materials and only to the extent authorized in the Department's general approval.

Any residue generated as a result of the operation of this recycling center shall be disposed of pursuant to the County Plan and the Interdistrict and Intradistrict Solid Waste Flow Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:26 et seq.).

D. Other Provisions Affecting the Plan Amendment

1. Contracts

Any contract renewal or new contract for solid waste collection or disposal which is inconsistent with this amendment to the County Plan and which was executed prior to the approval of this amendment and subsequent to the effective date of the Solid Waste Management Act (July 29, 1977), and which shall further be for a term in excess of one year, shall immediately be renegotiated in order to bring same into conformance with the terms and provisions herein set forth. Any solid waste collection operation or disposal facility registered by the Department and operating pursuant to a contract as herein described, shall be deemed to be in violation of this amendment and of the County Plan if such renegotiation is not completed within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this amendment provided, however, that any such registrant may, upon application to the Department, and for good cause shown, obtain an extension of time to complete such renegotiation.

2. Compliance

All solid waste facility operators and transporters registered with the Department and operating within the County and affected by the amendment contained herein shall operate in compliance with this amendment and all other approved provisions of the County Plan. Any facility operator or transporter who fails to comply with the provisions contained herein shall be deemed to be in violation of

N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:26-1 et seq., and in violation of their registration to operate a solid waste facility or a collection system issued thereunder by the Department and shall be subject to the provisions and penalties of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-9 and 12 and all other applicable laws.

3. Types of Solid Wastes Covered by the District Plan

The provisions of the County Plan shall apply to all solid wastes defined in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and N.J.A.C. 7:26-2.13 and shall not apply to liquid waste, sewage sludge, septage, and hazardous waste. All nonhazardous materials separated at the point of generation for sale or reuse and all construction and demolition waste classified as Type 13C are excluded from the waste flows designated in the Interdistrict and Intradistrict Solid Waste Flow Rules set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26-6, but are subject to regulation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1 et seq.

4. Certification to Proceed with the Implementation of the Plan Amendment

This document shall serve as the certification of the Commissioner of the Department to the County Freeholders and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24c. and f., the County shall proceed with the implementation of the approved amendment certified herein.

5. Definitions

For the purpose of this amendment and unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions of terms shall be the same as those found at N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and -99.12, N.J.A.C. 7:26-1.4, -2.13, and N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.3.

6. Effective Date of the Amendment

The amendment to the County Plan contained herein shall take effect immediately.

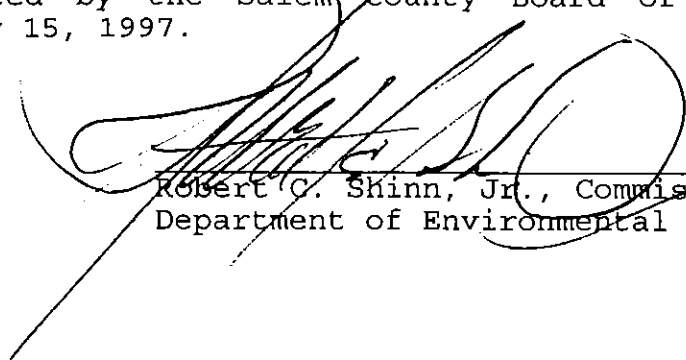
7. Reservation of Authority

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a limitation on any other action taken by the DEP pursuant to its authority under the law. The County Plan, including any amendment made thereto, shall conform with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan, with appendices, which includes the Department's planning guidelines, rules, regulations, orders of the DEP, interdistrict and intradistrict waste flow rules, and also includes the compilation of individual district plans and amendments as they are approved.

E. Certification of Approval of the Amendment by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., I hereby approve the amendment, as outlined in Section C. of this certification, to the Salem County District Solid Waste Management Plan which was adopted by the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders on January 15, 1997.

7/28/97
Date



Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection