

July 17, 2018

Dear Fellow Residents,

Once again, I want to update you on the Mayor and Council's efforts to oppose the operations of Waste Management Inc. ("WMI") in downtown Hillsdale, and to ask for your direct involvement.

WMI has continued its operations in Hillsdale based upon an approval issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") last December. The Mayor & Council have consistently opposed this decision since it obviously is not in the best interest of Hillsdale.

Last winter, the Borough filed an appeal of the NJDEP's decision and requested a stay of operations. These issues are currently before the courts. Repeated efforts to enlist the Governor's Office in our fight have not yet resulted in any progress toward achieving our goal, but we will continue to make our position known both in the courts and on the political front. We have contacted our State legislators, informed them of our concerns, and asked them to keep the matter high on the radar screens at the NJDEP, the Governor's office and the legislative chambers. The Bergen County Utilities Authority ("BCUA") also is providing us with an opportunity to reverse the NJDEP's decision.

The NJDEP requested a year ago that County Executive James Tedesco and the BCUA comment on the Hillsdale Transfer Station. The response has been that such comment would be forthcoming, but only as part of a comprehensive review of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. The BCUA ordinarily should perform such comprehensive reviews every 10 years and Bergen County's is well overdue. The review is only now about to commence, and is unlikely to be completed for several months.

The Hillsdale governing body continues to urge the BCUA to take seriously the portion of the State's environmental regulations that give the BCUA the power to remove any facility that has not been in operation for more than two years. Many of you may recall that WMI closed the Hillsdale Transfer Station for repairs back in February 2014 and did not use that facility **for almost four years!** During that period of time, there were no demonstrated negative consequences for either WMI or county residents. However there are significant negative environmental, safety, and financial issues that will impact Hillsdale if the BCUA does not act to remove WMI from the county plan.

This is a fight to protect our quality of life and secure a sound future in Hillsdale for our children and for others who may settle in this wonderful town in years to come. **We are now at the point in this fight where you need to raise your voices to County officials in Hackensack.** Below is their contact information. We have provided some suggested language to include in your correspondence, and urge you to let your opinions be known. I ask that you immediately, preferably via email, send your messages to our County Executive, James Tedesco, and the Director of the BCUA, Robert Laux. Please copy all three of our legislators, as well as our own Borough Clerk.

*Mr. James Tedesco III*  
*Bergen County Executive*  
*One Bergen County Plaza*  
*Floor 5, Room 580*  
*Hackensack NJ 07604*  
*Email: countyexecutive@co.bergen.nj.us*  
*Phone: 1-201-336-7300*

*Mr. Robert Laux*  
*Executive Director*  
*Bergen County Utilities Authority*  
*Foot of Mehrhof Rd*  
*P.O. Box 9*  
*Little Ferry NJ 07643*  
*Email: rlaux@bcua.org*  
*Phone: 1-201-807-5801*

***“Dear Messrs. Tedesco and Laux, please remove the Waste Management Transfer Station located in Hillsdale from the Bergen County Solid Waste Management Plan. The facility went unused for almost four years, starting in February 2014. During that time, there were no negative consequences for either Waste Management or county residents, indicating that the Station is not needed. It is an eyesore, located only a short distance from the center of downtown Hillsdale, within 50 yards of a residential area, and with a traffic route near schools and through the busiest of intersections in the Pascack Valley. It poses environmental and safety issues to the residents of Hillsdale and Washington Township, and prevents Hillsdale from recognizing the true economic potential of approximately 20 acres of property. Its very presence in such an area violates Federal EPA guidelines going back to 2002. The overwhelming majority of Hillsdale residents do not want to have a garbage transfer station in the middle of our town. Please consider these facts as you review the County’s Plan.”***

Legislative Contact Information:

Sen. Gerald Cardinale  
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Cresskill NJ 07626  
201-567-2324  
Sencardinale@njleg.org

Assemblyman Robert Auth  
350 Madison Ave  
Cresskill NJ 07626  
201-567-2324  
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Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi  
287 Kinderkamack Rd.  
Westwood NJ 07675  
201-666-0881  
Aswschepisi@njleg.org

Hillsdale Borough Clerk Contact Information:

Ms. Denise Kohan  
Hillsdale Borough Clerk  
380 Hillsdale Ave  
Hillsdale NJ 07642  
dkohan@hillsdalenj.org