

Meeting Between ANR and Moretown Town Officials

August 23, 2013

Present: Jonathan Siegal, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Lisa Ransom, Tom Martin, Justin Johnson, George Densch, representative from Channel 4 news, Michelle Beard (minutes)

Justin appreciates the opportunity to get together, listen and have a good dialogue.

Moretown requested this meeting to understand the basis behind the decision to deny the certification of the landfill. The town feels that the landfill is good economically for the town and the district but are not sure environmentally where it stands.

In May of 2011, ANR issued notice of alleged violation. A third party was brought in to assess odor complaints. At that time, there was a host of problems, sludge, malodorous trash, etc.

Cell III has issues involving odors and groundwater contamination. ANR has had discussions with Advanced Disposal (AD) as to how they would address these issues. Management acknowledged the odor problems and demonstrated that the odors can be controlled. The gas odors were due to deferred maintenance. Some wells had no screens. They replaced some gas extraction wells and conducted overall maintenance on the system.

There was some discussion revolving around whether the current groundwater contamination issues stemmed from the lined or unlined cells or naturally occurring phenomena. AD is trying to determine those answers. There is no indication that the contamination is escalating. Iron, Mg. and arsenic is found in the background. ANR is defining what the background level is. There are three different hydrogeologic settings which can contribute to background levels. ANR asserts that levels of Iron, Mg. and arsenic are greater downgrade of the landfill. ANR and AD have not yet agreed on the background levels. There are different remediation methods. ANR has not yet dictated a specific remediation method. They are asking AD to determine an appropriate method, subject to analysis by ANR. Under current rules, the landfill cannot increase arsenic beyond the drinking water standard. AD is in the process of gathering and analyzing the data in this area.

There is a new groundwater public trust doctrine that requires that these issues be examined and addressed.

ANR has not received any application for cell IV as of yet. They were advised by the landfill that they are planning on submitting an application and might have something by the end of the summer. The original application included cells III and IV, which was withdrawn. From ANR's perspective, that application no longer exists. The new application is expected to address the odor and groundwater contamination issues.