

February 15, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dominick DeNaples, Jr  
Keystone Sanitary Landfill Inc.  
249 Dunham Drive  
Dunmore, PA 18512-0249

Re: Pre-Denial of Pending Applications  
Keystone Sanitary Landfill  
NPDES Application No. PA0276278  
WQM Application No. 3519201  
Authorization ID No. 1300190  
Dunmore & Throop Boroughs, Lackawanna County

Dear Applicant:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reviewed your applications for an individual Industrial Waste with Effluent Limitation Guidelines NPDES Permit and concurrent WQM Permit Application (for permitting the Keystone Sanitary Landfill (KSL) Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP a.k.a. Leachate Treatment Plant), related pump stations/pipeline(s), and proposed Outfall No. 002 on Little Roaring Brook (CWF)) and has determined that the applications remain incomplete and not adequate for technical review. The applications are incomplete due to the failure to provide sufficient information for DEP to conduct a technical review, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

Despite the application history summarized below, the pending applications do not yet address application requirements and/or provide information pertaining to wastewater quality/characteristics and proposed Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant design (with potential additional Reverse Osmosis units; undefined Ion Exchange tertiary treatment system; potentially repurposed MBBR tanks; proposal for new leachate AST tanks for either treatment and/or storage; potential chlorine disinfection/de-chlorination; potential need for effluent temperature adjustment; references to potential additional filtration or total hardness adjustment in draft documents; modified leachate metering system; degassifiers; final pH adjustment; apparent modification of existing IWTP lagoons as settling units for influent organic loading removal; etc.).

You have the option of providing complete and technically adequate permit applications by June 14, 2024 or withdrawing these applications. Alternatively, the Department may deny both applications pursuant to the applicable regulations (25 Pa. Code §§ 92a.25, 92a.36, etc.). If you decide to withdraw the applications and resubmit at a later date, please submit complete and technically adequate applications (with new application fees, public notifications, etc.), at which time DEP will conduct a new completeness review. The Department reserves the right to deny any incomplete and/or technically inadequate application.

Application History:

- 5/12/2016: May 12, 2016 Preliminary Effluent Limitations (PEL) Letter (Eddy Creek): 0.107 MGD summer and 0.06 MGD winter discharge.
- 8/14/2018: Meeting with the applicant where these options were discussed.
- 5/10/2019: May 10, 2019 PEL Letter (Little Roaring Brook): 0.107 MGD discharge
- 12/18/2019: Individual IW NPDES Permit Application and Part II WQM Permit Application No. 3519402 received.
- 1/3/2020: Concurrent NPDES Application Incompleteness and WQM Permit Application Incompleteness Letters (response due in 60 days).
- 2/12/2020: Meeting requested by Keystone Landfill (KSL) to discuss options.
- 2/25/2020: KSL E-mail request for extension to June 1, 2020 for addressing the application incompleteness letters for both the NPDES/WQM permit applications.
- 2/25/2020: DEP E-mail and Letter granting requested extension.
- 6/1/2020: NPDES letter response and revised NPDES Permit Application received from KSL. 5/29/2020 KSL Consultant E-mail indicating the concurrent WQM permit application would be submitted later.
- 6/1/2020: DEP E-mail to KSL Consultant asking for target date of revised WQM permit application.
- 7/9/2020: Revised NPDES Letter Response/Application received. Cover letter indicated minor editorial changes.
- 1/22/2021: DEP E-mail indicating the Department was restarting the KSL NPDES and WQM permit application reviews with assorted comments.
- 2/5/2021: KSL E-mail request for time extension for response to NPDES and WQM Permit Application comments.
- 2/8/2021: DEP E-mail granting time extension to April 16, 2021.
- 4/1/2021: KSL E-mail indicating draft WQM and NPDES Permit application were undergoing internal KSL review. KSL asked that the Department contact the KSL consultant (ERG) to discuss application submission formatting requirements.
- 4/28/2021: Conference Call on pending Applications
- 6/9/2021: KSL E-mail with New PEL request and consultant-prepared meeting summary.
- 7/14/2021: DEP response letter to KSL regarding requested PELs and conference call notes.
- 2/22/2022: Revised NPDES Permit Application and Revised concurrent WQM Permit Application No. 3519402 (Captive IWTP, force main and new Outfall No. 002) received via On-Base.
- 3/8/2022: Conference call on application issues.
- 4/12/2022: Partial NPDES/WQM Permit Application update. Updated analytical data and Pollutant Group Tables not provided.
- 5/9/2022: DEP E-mail asking for target date of all application updating/supplemental information including new sampling data/updated Pollutant Group tables) sent to ERG (technical consultant).
- 5/9/2022: KSL Consultant E-mail indicating that they would have to discuss internally when they can submit application updating/supplemental information.

- 6/16/2022: On-Base Reference No. 60220. Updated Sampling results (one effluent sample) and groundwater-related information. Update Outfall No. 001 coordinates. Submittal indicated separate Part II WQM Permit application update would be forthcoming.
- 6/21/2022: Supplemental NPDES and Part II WQM Permit Application information received.
- 8/3/2022: KSL Consultant E-mail containing Letter to PADEP Waterways & Wetlands indicating the Chapter 105 GP-4 application had not been submitted, and would be completed as soon as possible. The letter requested that program to “disregard the courtesy copy of the draft GP-4 application that was provided to the Bureau of Clean Water”.
- 12/13/2022: Technical Deficiency Letter issued for both Part I NPDES Permit and Part II WQM permit application. Response due in 60 days.
- 2/2/2023: Meeting with KSL regarding response to the 12/3/2022 Technical Deficiency Letters.
- 2/2/2023: DEP E-mail forwarding DEP Chemical Additive Webpage link and sample IW NPDES Permit Chemical Additive template conditions to Keystone’s consultant (ERG) per conference call.
- 2/10/2023: KSL Consultant E-mail asked for extension to 6/16/2023 for response to DEP Letter.
- 2/10/2023: DEP granted extension to 6/16/2023 for response to DEP Letter.
- 3/8/2023: Incompleteness Letter issued for NPDES PAG-03 Renewal (overlapping IW Stormwater NPDES permitting requirements).
- 9/21/2023: Pre-submittal meeting to provide feedback on draft NPDES/WQM application submittals, prior to formal submittal. Draft revised NPDES and WQM permit application dated 8/23/2023 received. Please note DEP could not process the August 2023 draft documents that lacked the required certifications, signatures, and other application-required information.
- 9/3/2023: DEP E-mail forwarding preliminary TMS/Thermal Modeling outputs to KSL, per meeting request.
- 9/21/2023: KSL E-mail confirming receipt of preliminary modeling.
- 1/16/2023: PACT TEAMS Meeting on proposal for new leachate tanks as part of IWTP. KSL also indicated it was doing three pilot studies with the technology vendor(s) to address previous DEP questions/feedback on the existing to-be-revised NPDES/WQM Permit Applications. KSL indicated it might complete the pilot projects circa June 2024.

We will retain the application for our files. If you have any permitting questions, please contact James D. Berger, P.E. at 570.826.2308 or [jaberger@pa.gov](mailto:jaberger@pa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Amy M. Bellanca*

Amy M. Bellanca, P.E.  
Environmental Program Manager  
Clean Water Program

cc: ERG Inc.