



Solid Waste Advisory Committee
to the Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8471, Harrisburg, Pa 17105-8471

April 19, 2007

Dear Secretary McGinty:

As Chair of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, I am writing to inform you of an action taken at the April 11, 2007 SWAC meeting.

At this meeting, the Department presented for consideration by the Committee the final amendments to the Municipal and Residual Waste Regulations regarding notification of proximity to airports. As you know, these amendments were based on a petition by the Department of Defense (DOD), requesting that the Department address the potential hazards posed to military aircraft from bird strikes near waste landfills and transfer facilities. The amendments would broaden the definition of airport to include military airports, extend existing airport isolation distances for waste landfills to include military airports, and impose an airport notification requirement on waste transfer facilities.

In his presentation before the Committee, Steve Socash reviewed three major issues raised during the public comment period, specifically: whether transfer operations in an enclosed building present an increased risk of bird strikes; whether inclusion of military airports retroactively imposes setback restrictions on existing, permitted facilities; and whether a lack of response from FAA or the Bureau of Aviation would result in a determination that an application was incomplete. Mr. Socash provided the Department's response to these issues and answered questions from the members.

Mark Pedersen (Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association) made a motion to disapprove the regulations, which was seconded by Ed Vogel (Vogel Disposal Service). A vote was taken and the motion passed by a wide margin.

You may recall that SWAC disapproved these same regulations when presented to the Committee as proposed on May 11, 2006. No changes were made to the amendments between the proposed and this final version.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee's action, please call me.

Sincerely,

Tanya McCoy-Caretti, Chair
Solid Waste Advisory Committee



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