

November 6, 2008

Shari T. Wilson  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Madame Secretary,

I am writing to you today because I am concerned about the health and safety of our neighborhood. We live right next to the Gude Landfill in Derwood Maryland. There is no buffer between the landfill and our houses. The County Plans for the Gude Landfill have us very worried. There are 500 homes in our neighborhood and we formed the *Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens* committee so that our concerns are properly channeled and a single voice is heard.

Today more than 800 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas is collected and combusted at two flare locations. Montgomery County experts have told us that this represents only about 60% of the landfill gas being generated. The other 40% is fugitive which migrates and escapes into the environment. The leachate runoff drains into Southlawn Creek, which has been rated by Montgomery County as "poor" in water quality.

The County Master Plans show the Gude Landfill becoming a park which is why we bought our homes next to a closed landfill. The Maryland National Park and Planning Committee has said that the land is unstable and unsuitable for a park at this time. We understand that.

This summer as part of a growth initiative, the County proposed to relocate a bus maintenance depot and 350 buses to the Gude Landfill. If they do this, we are very concerned about migration of the landfill gas and the runoff of the leachate. Our questions to the County are going unanswered and we are being told that Gude is an unregulated landfill and the County does not need permission to build there. The County explained to us that they will mitigate the risk. That scares us.



Houses are about 200ft from LFG wells



Backyards are 350ft from flares



Leachate seeping from side of the landfill

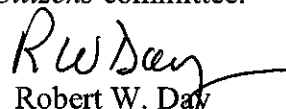


Seepage is full of toxic compounds

The residents of our neighborhood would like to know the facts and we are hoping that you and your staff can help us with that. We know that some day the County will use the land at the landfill but they seem so focused on their growth initiative that they are forgetting about the health and safety of our neighborhood. We feel we are being steamrolled.

1. Could you provide us with a copy of the Closure Order for the Gude Landfill? We understand that this will identify the closure requirements, post closure maintenance and monitoring requirements.
2. If the County digs into the landfill during construction of the bus depot, is that considered a "re-opening" of the landfill? If the landfill is re-opened, will it be subject to current federal and state regulations?
3. Could you provide us with a copy of the water discharge permit, the associated outfall limits, and the monitoring results from the last 2 years? We understand that the permit will specify water quality standards that protect aquatic life and human health.
4. Would you provide us a copy of Ed Dexter's 18 Oct08 letter "MDE Guidance on the Use of Gude Landfill for Relocating County Facilities". The County has referred to that but has not shared it with us.

Your assistance in providing us with facts and in being an environmental referee will be most appreciated by the *Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens* committee.

  
Robert W. Day  
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Copy to:  
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