

TO: Phil Andrews, President  
Nancy Floreen  
George Leventhal  
Roger Berliner  
Marc Elrich  
Valerie Ervin  
Don Praisner  
Duchy Trachtenberg

From: Keith Ligon, Chairman, Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens

DATE: January 22, 2009

SUBJ: Montgomery County Council Hearing dated January 22, 2009 Regarding Funding Request for \$325,000 to Study Relocating County Bus Depot to the Gude Landfill

Dear Council President Andrews and Council Members,

We appreciate the ability to testify this evening to oppose the County Executive's request to fund \$325,000 for the conduct of a second feasibility study for the relocation of the Montgomery County Public Schools Bus Depot from the County Service Park on Crabbs Branch Way to the Gude Landfill. (PDF No. 360903)

To channel our concerns about the County's plans to reuse the Gude Landfill, we have formed the Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens (GLCC) group. The GLCC represents 500 households in the Derwood Station and Hollybrooke subdivisions in Montgomery County. Three homeowner's associations are in this community. These HOAs include Derwood Station 1, Derwood Station 2, and Derwood Station South HOAs. All three HOA presidents are members of the GLCC.

***Our Community is Gravely Concerned About County Plans to ReUse the Gude Landfill***

Our community is located right next door to the Gude Landfill. There is no buffer between the landfill and our houses. As one element of its "Smart Growth" property use initiatives and Shady Grove Sector planning, the County has announced plans to relocate a 400 school bus depot to the top of this methane venting, toxic fluid leaching and settling landfill.

Over the last weeks, we have gathered much disturbing information about the landfill. We have shared this information with you and your staffs.

### ***What is the position of the GLCC?***

- The County must take immediate action to remediate existing, known toxic surface and groundwater impacts at the landfill.
- The County should place a moratorium on current and proposed plans to relocate noxious activities to the landfill (diesel engine gas-to-energy, yard trim facility, bus depot).
- The County should identify, evaluate and remediate all current health and safety risks to the community and the environment (e.g., explosion, exposure to methane and noxious gases, air pollution, water pollution).
- Given what is already known about the Gude Landfill, and with the feasibility study already in hand, no more studies are needed.
- The County should identify alternative relocation options for the MCPS Bus Depot that more broadly address MCPS school bus parking capacity issues.
- Enforce the sector plan that calls for development of a community park, as we were promised when we purchased our homes.

### ***What information is already known about the Landfill and plans for its reuse?***

- The landfill leaches toxic waste. The toxic leachate includes volatile organic and inorganic compounds that include heavy metals such as cyanide, lead, and arsenic at levels that exceed Maximum Contaminant Limits established by the EPA and MDE. This is potentially a violation of State, Federal and environmental regulations and the landfill storm water permit.
- The landfill vents toxic gases; only 60% of the methane is recovered. This presents an explosion risk.
- The landfill reveals “above normal” settlement. Risk of settlement will continue for 30 or more years.
- The operation of 392 busses will inundate our neighborhood with diesel fumes, raising health risks.
- Health and safety risks are exacerbated by the plans to place a diesel engine and yard trim waste facility on the site. The plans to develop a gas-to-energy conversion site and relocate the yard trim facility will add fumes, noise, and increase water pollution.
- Current North Creek Sector Plan has for decades called for the development of a community park on the landfill. MNPCC recently affirmed this long-standing plan but has said the site is currently too unstable for even a park.
- The cost to build a depot on the landfill will reach at least twice the normal construction costs and will likely exceed \$55 million.
- The County Council has already asked for a full exploration of alternative sites (January 17, 2006; Resolution No 15-1283; p.44). No exploration is reported.
- An initial County chartered feasibility study recommends that County staff “investigate the availability of land elsewhere for all [Shady Grove County Services] facilities...” No study of alternatives is reported.

**What documents are relevant?**

- GLCC briefing PowerPoint presentation
- SCS Engineering Study (Nov 2007, updated Aug 2008)
- Letter from Chairman MNCPPC Royce Hansen to Councilmember Phil Andrews dated July 24, 2008
- Staff Memo from County Department of Environmental Protection (Kamazani) to County's Karasik dated October 24, 2008 =0 A
- Staff Email from Maryland Department of Environment's Ed Dexter to County's Karasik dated October 18, 2007
- Letter from MDE's Wilson to Robert Day dated December 10, 2008
- GLCC Letter to MDE's Wilson dated Jan 10, 2009

These are attached for your reference. We have also provided a copy of the community petitions indicating support of over 200 homeowners.

**No further study of the proposal to relocate bus depot facilities to Gude Landfill is required.**

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