

**From:** D'Amato, Paul (DEC)

**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 2:48 PM

**To:** Michael Barker; Macedon Town Supervisor

**Cc:** Jeff Richardson – Waste Management; Joseph D. Picciotti, Esq.; Leslie Mauro, Esq.; Linda Shaw, Esq.; Schwartz, Lisa (DEC) Foti, Scott J (DEC); MacLean, Greg B (DEC) ;Gary McNeil DeSantis, Chris - WM ; Tom Hasek - WM

**Subject:** High Acres

Supervisors Barker and Pagano,

I write this to advise you further of DEC's current view of the odor abatement efforts at High Acres. Under more routine circumstances I would probably wait until at least the remainder of the geo – membrane was installed, if not the completion of waste placement and cover at the top of Cell 11, to make any further statement. As I said at the Perinton Town Board meeting in March, we will be in a much better position to assess the effectiveness of the measures taken to date once both those things are done.

But today was a particularly problematic day with respect to odors, the number of residents impacted, and the distance to which the odors reached. And it has not been the only problematic day over the past week or two, particularly in the early morning hours.

With respect to the geo-membrane, we are advised that by mid next week it should be complete, absent significant rainfall. The existing, thinner geo -membrane (some of which was damaged in the wind storm) installed on that 9 acres will no longer be relied upon for cover going forward. WM has advised that they purchased the thinner material because it was all they could get from their vendors expeditiously in their effort to address the problem, and that the thicker material now being installed, even if it was available, is much more difficult to install in the winter. They also said they generally need to place an order for that material a few months in advance. As a result, they said they planned to replace it during the warmer months in 2018 if any problems were encountered.

Unfortunately, even if true, DEC was not advised of that plan or of the unavailability of the preferred, thicker material. As a result, we (including me personally) made several pronouncements publicly and to your residents about our confidence in the use of geo - membrane for odor control. Had we and the public been aware of any existing plan to replace it with the more robust product, particularly when a significant portion was damaged during high winds, that information could have lessened the concern, as well as the skepticism, about the commitment being made to competently address the odor issue. It is certainly understandable that residents are not only out of patience but are wondering if WM is up to the task. While it is certainly not comfortable for me to continue to carry a message that we are "almost" done, my staff and I are still expecting that the company will deliver on its promise. If not, all rights have been reserved.

Further, last night and today, residents and my staff observed the existing, thinner geo - membrane being lifted by the wind. My on - site staff checked the situation to verify that it was wind, and not a significant volume of escaping gas, that was lifting the material. Any gas

escaping from under that area will, in addition to the gas collection functioning under it, be further addressed by the new geo -membrane which will be installed in the next few days. Staff did report, however, a strong gas smell near the hill in the area exposed from the damaged geo-membrane. This area will be covered again as part of the completion of the geo-membrane installation. An additional product ( “wind defender” ) is being installed as well to protect the new geo -membrane from wind damage in the future.

In light of the events of yesterday and today, I requested that WM provide a Community Update this afternoon to provide more detail as to the installation of the geo -membrane, and what the residents can expect in the near term regarding the completion of activities in Cell 11. I was told they will comply with that request.

Finally, while it may be an obvious point, I just want to assure you that, despite some references being made by WM as to the mitigation measures being complete, we do not consider this matter resolved.

**Paul J. D’Amato**  
Region 8 Director

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