

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0705

July 9, 2009

Robert C. Isner, Director
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance
Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division
CT Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Isner:

I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposal by the Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc. to expand its solid waste facility located at 30 Hawleyville Road in Newtown.

I have heard from several residents and municipal officials in the area who have expressed concerns about the railroad's application. They object not only to the proposed increase in solid waste volume from 450 tons per day to 2,000 tons per day, but also to the anticipated expansion of the types of materials handled at the facility to include items such as contaminated soils, tires, treated wood, and coal fly ash.

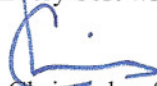
Residents and officials have voiced particular concern about the potential soil and water contamination issues that such an expansion could cause. In 2007, the Town of Newtown issued a notice of violation against the existing waste facility for allegedly encroaching on area wetlands. Residents and officials worry that an increase in the tonnage and types of waste processed at the facility promises only to exacerbate this issue. Concerns have been raised that the facility has already begun to expand operations and that further encroachment on the wetlands has occurred.

Finally, officials wonder about the role expansion will play in Greater Danbury's long standing solid waste plan. For several months now, my office has been working with the City of Danbury, the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, and the U.S. Department of Justice to convey the White Street transfer station in Danbury to public ownership. Officials worry that these efforts and the entire regional solid waste plan could be placed at risk.

As a result, I respectfully request that you consider these serious concerns during the permit review process. I also ask that the CT Department of Environmental Protection test the soil on this site to determine the nature and extent of any groundwater contamination that might have occurred. I would greatly appreciate it if you would keep my office informed of any developments related to this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director Robert Michalik at (860) 223-8412.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Every best wish,



Christopher S. Murphy