



June 26, 2015

Commissioner Joseph Martens
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-0001

Dear Commissioner Martens,

We write today to express our concerns regarding the lack of sufficient opportunities for community input on the topic of waste and rail projects that directly affect our constituents in Glendale, Ridgewood, and Middle Village. We are requesting that a community forum be held on this issue and that the public comment period for the draft permit be extended.

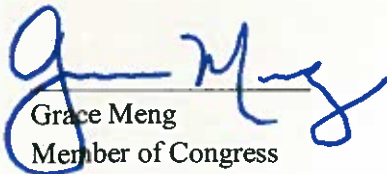
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) released two draft permits on June 19 to increase the amount and type of waste transported through Fresh Pond Rail Yard. Coastal Distribution LLC in Farmingdale seeks to expand the type of waste it transports to include commercial and residential waste, and is planning to test out 3 types of enclosures to contain said waste. One World Recycling, Inc. in Lindenhurst seeks to increase the overall quantity of waste it transports in the area.

We are concerned about the impact that increased operations will have on the quality of life for our constituents in these communities, specifically in regards to odor from open containers that sit idle, the attraction of pests, and pollution stemming from the construction and demolition debris and other waste that are not adequately sealed. A public forum should be held in order to provide an opportunity for the residents to voice their concerns and reach an understanding with the companies planning these operations.


NYSDEC is currently accepting public comments on a draft permit modification and renewal for One World Recycling LLC, and on a draft permit application for a research, development and demonstration (RD&D) permit for Coastal Distribution LLC from June 22 through July 10. We are requesting that this period of public comment be extended to allow more input from the public before proceeding with the proposed projects. A typically appropriate period for public comment is a minimum of 30 days. However, in this case the comment period is only 19 days long, and unfortunately has not included a public forum component. This combined with the delayed announcement of the draft permits means that our constituents do not have adequate time to consider the issues and make their voices heard.

As the transportation of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris affects the quality of life for many local communities in Queens, it is imperative that the public's concerns be taken into account to the fullest extent possible before any final permits are issued or projects approved. We will not support these plans until our comments and our community's concerns are given consideration.


Sincerely,




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



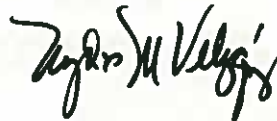
Joseph Addabbo Jr.
Member of New York State Senate



Michael Miller
Member of New York State Assembly



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Andrew Hevesi
Member of New York State Assembly



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