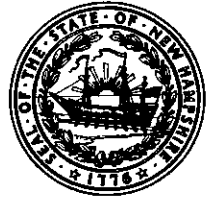




State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-2900 FAX (603) 271-2456



October 16, 1997

Dr. George Manupelli, President
AWARE
P.O. Box 842
Bethlehem, NH 03574

**SUBJECT: MANUPELLI LETTER TO GOVERNOR JEANNE SHAHEEN DATED
SEPTEMBER 20, 1997**

Dear Dr. Manupelli:

I have been asked by Commissioner Robert W. Varney of the Department of Environmental Services (Department) to respond to your letter to Governor Jeanne Shaheen regarding the North Country Environmental Services (NCES) landfill in Bethlehem.

As evidenced by Mr. Cotton's letter to NCES which is dated August 22, 1997 (copy attached to your letter to the Governor), the Department does in fact pay close attention to the reporting requirements to which this facility is subject. As you well know, the NCES facility operates under the terms of several permits issued by the Department which require certain data be provided to the regulatory authorities on a prescribed basis. The reporting requirements are established by the Department as one of several means of monitoring activity at this location. Department personnel also visit the facility several times each year to make firsthand observations of the operating practices. In addition, Department personnel meet with officials from the facility to discuss operations and issues relating to the proper management of solid waste, and possible future plans.

In the case of the NCES facility, this has been a particularly active year because they are in the process of capping approximately fourteen acres of the lined landfill which includes the waste material relocated to the secure landfill from the old unlined landfill. This construction activity has resulted in 13 visits to the site during the past 10 months by members of the Department's technical staff to monitor progress, observe key elements of construction activity, and monitor overall operations of the facility.

In addition to actual visits to the site, the Department also has a firm commitment to the review of all data that is reported as a key component of its efforts to protect public health and the environment. At times, as indicated by Mr. Cotton's August 22, 1997 letter, the review process leads the Department to conclude that elements of the required information are missing, a finding that often results in an exchange of correspondence between the agency and the permittee in an effort to fill the gaps. In most cases when a facility is contacted regarding data gaps, the information is promptly provided and no further action is required. In instances where the Department determines that formal enforcement action is required, that process is initiated and brought to completion. In instances where enforcement action is judged not to be necessary, and the agency is convinced that public health and the environment are properly protected, the matter is put to rest.

Dr. George Manupelli
MANUPELLI LETTER TO GOVERNOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1997

NHDES-WMD Letter of October 16, 1997

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With regard to Mr. Cotton's request for additional information, NCES has responded to each of the items. The Department is in the process of reviewing the information and, in keeping with its operating policy, will take further action if warranted.

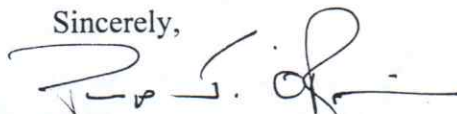
The Department will continue to provide copies of correspondence directed to NCES to the Town authorities so that the correspondence is readily available to the citizens of the community. As you know, arrangements to review the NCES Waste Management files can be made by contacting Ms. Ariel Parent at (603)271-2919. Arrangements to review the Water Division files can be made by contacting Ms. Beryl Towle at (603)271-3434. It is generally not possible to accommodate walk-in requests for file review due the number of file review requests received, the need to assemble the requested information for review, and the limitations of working space in a busy agency.

If you are not able to come to Concord to look at the files, or see the files at the Bethlehem Town offices, you can make arrangements with Ms. Parent to have specific pieces of correspondence copied for a fee. Please note, that the information must be identified by date, recipient and topic in order for her to correctly identify the requested document.

Please be assured that the Department will continue to monitor activity and performance at this facility, as it has effectively done to date. In recognition of the desirability of making information convenient to the general public, the Waste Management Division will continue to copy the Town officials on correspondence relating to the NCES facility in Bethlehem.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Department at (603) 271-2925.

Sincerely,



Philip J. O'Brien, Ph.D.

Director

Waste Management Division

PJO/RSR/neo/mnpl1020

cc: Jeanne Shaheen, Governor
Robert W. Varney, Commissioner, DES
Ted Walsh, Special Assistant - Office of the Governor
Richard S. Reed, NHDES-SWMB
John Cotton, NHDES-SWMB
Ariel Parent, NHDES-WMD
Beryl Towle, NHDES-WD
SWMB File/DB