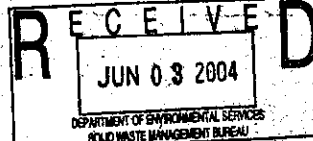


THE

*****3-DIGIT 033
NH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV 11
RICHARD S. REED
PO BOX 95
CONCORD NH 03302-0095



RIER

Serving the North Country Since 1889

115TH YEAR, 22ND ISSUE

LITTLETON, N.H., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004

75¢ (USPS 315-)

Editorials/Letters

◆◆◆

Investigate Casella on asbestos

If you inhaled in 2001, and your children and elderly relatives did, you may have inhaled some of the asbestos fiber that Casella's NCES landfill accepted from the Mountain View Grand Hotel.

Inhaling asbestos fibers can lead to asbestosis, "a widespread scarring of lung tissue caused by breathing asbestos dust". Symptoms are fluid in the lungs, respiratory failure, and even lung cancer.

The owner of the Mountain View Grand has pleaded guilty to trucking asbestos to the Casella NCES landfill. Owner Craffey saved money by not depositing it properly, and Casella made money by illegally accepting it.

So what happens next?

Will the Department Of Environmental Services investigate or just politely ask Casella if it did anything wrong? Will Attorney General Peter Heed file criminal charges against Casella for accepting hazardous waste without a permit?

If Casella says it knew it was taking asbestos, then it is subject to "jail" time and a serious fine just like hotel owner Kevin Craffey.

If Casella says it did not know there was asbestos in the trucks, then DES should revoke NCES's permit because every truckload entering the landfill is supposed to be inspected. Remember the 10,000 American flags Casella didn't see?

Will those who shout "negotiate be able to look their children and grandchildren in the eye and say, "Well, sorry the landfill may ruin your health and depress your property value and your quality of life. But maybe John Casella will prepare the ground for a new ball field or help renovate a school."

Ask towns like Dover, N.H., Old Town, Maine, Templeton, Holliston and Brockton Mass., Rutland and Newport Vt., and many more what they think of the "deals" they made with Casella.

The Bethlehem select-board deserves answers from Ray Burton, Governor Benson, Attorney General Heed, DES, and the N.H. Board of Health.

George Manupelli
Bethlehem