



May 22, 2023

Dear Resident,

I am writing to provide you with information about the operation of the Bonny Hill Organics Facility in Thurston, New York. In July 2022, New England Waste Services of ME, Inc., a subsidiary of Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (collectively, “Casella”), purchased the family owned and operated organic waste processing facility now known as Bonny Hill Organics. The Bonny Hill Facility has a current capacity to manage up to 25,000 tons of biosolids per year, the equivalent of fertilizer needed for 2500 acres of cropland.

Biosolids are an alternative to conventional fertilizer. Biosolids contain nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and a host of micronutrients beneficial to soil health and fertility. Recycling biosolids through land application is a recognized sustainable practice that reduces dependence on fossil fuel fertilizers and greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions by reusing material otherwise directed to a landfill. This process also provides a source of organic nitrogen to crops, thereby reducing the leaching of nitrate.

Shortly after acquiring the facility, Casella submitted two applications to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, (NYSDEC). The first application was to transfer the permit to Casella and the second application was to add Bay Park WWTP as a generator of Class B biosolids. Currently both applications are pending NYSDEC approval. *To be clear, neither of these pending permit applications are for a new facility or for a facility expansion.*

Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant, (WWTP), generates a class B biosolid that is high in nutrients which will be the primary source of Bonny Hill Organics future land spreading operations. The actual throughput of the Bonny Hill Facility will be less than historical throughput. Clearly, a decrease in throughput doesn’t qualify as an expansion.

Casella has not accepted any new material for land application since its ownership of the Bonny Hill Facility. Casella has developed a best practices acceptance protocol for all the potential incoming biosolids. This protocol will ensure no fields will exceed the acceptable loading of any constituent as regulated by the NYSDEC.

Casella will not accept any material until the permits are issued by NYSDEC and protocols that align with federal and state regulations are established and in place. We plan to commence operations this fall.

I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions. An invitation to the Open House at the Bonny Hill Facility, will follow.

Sincerely,

*Mary C Rayeski*

*Division Manager*