

**APPENDIX F
NYS DOT LETTER**



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION 3
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SYRACUSE, NY 13202
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CARL F. FORD, P.E.
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

ASTRID C. GLYNN
COMMISSIONER

July 23, 2007

Ms. Kimberly A. Merchant
Deputy Permit Administrator
Division of Environmental Permits
NYSDEC Region 8
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414-9519

Dear Ms. Merchant:

RE: SEQR - Supplemental Comments on Final
Supplemental EIS-Seneca Meadows Expansion
Town of Seneca Falls, Seneca County

We have reviewed the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the subject proposal and have the following comments:

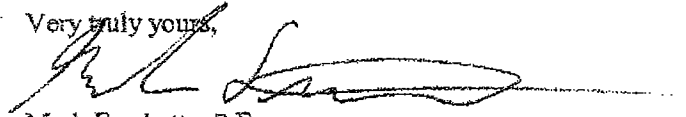
- Over the past 12 years, the Department has received several requests for truck counts that were perceived to be resulting from the Seneca Meadows Landfill. The counts were taken on state routes in the Skaneateles area at the request of concerned citizen groups. They were repeated several times for comparison reasons. These counts in Skaneateles were taken in the mid to late 90's, and more recently, truck counts were taken in the area of the Town of Owasco the past two summers at the town's request. In the last year or so, more complaints about trash hauling trucks have been coming from the Ithaca area, but to date, no special truck studies have been done.
- The truck counts that the Department conducted generally resulted in a moderate increase in large trucks on the state routes counted, but not a significant increase. Since we issued the results of the truck counts, there was some discussion with department officials, but it never resulted in any level of service determinations to see if the presence of trucks has degraded the operation of our highways.
- Most of the complaints have been quality of life issues of having garbage trucks traveling through their communities. The most common complaint has been noise, and in some cases the vibration of large trucks going by houses that are close to the road. In general, the presence of these trucks has been the largest issue as they are considered by local citizens to be a nuisance.

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- The Department has added signs to various routes to encourage trucks to use I-81 and I-90, rather than cutting across on various routes through Cayuga, Cortland or Tompkins Counties to bypass Thruway tolls. The Department continues to take the position that highway law does not restrict trucks from certain routes because of the fact that they are hauling trash long distances. Trucks have a right to travel the route of their choice, provided that they are within the legal limits for height and weight without a special hauling permit.
- We generally agree with the items that you have added in red. In regard to level of service, the Department does not have a detailed analysis for each section of state highway that may be affected by the Seneca Meadows landfill.
- Regarding the condition of our highways, there are many parameters that affect the physical condition of our highways (i.e. drainage, freeze-thaw cycles, age, etc.) There is no way of measuring the impact of heavy truck traffic that results from the presence of the subject landfill.
- At the request of the Department, Clough, Harbour and Associates provided a supplemental traffic analysis for the proposed signal installation at Salzman Road. This report is enclosed for incorporation into the FSEIS at your discretion.
- The Department will require further analysis from the applicant during the highway work permit process.

If you have any other questions, please contact John Reichert, at (315) 428-4405.

Very truly yours,



Mark Frechette, P.E.

Director, Planning & Program Management Group

Enclosure

cc: D. Grascr, System Operations
C. Covert, Cayuga/Seneca Residency