



## State of New Jersey

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Department of Environmental Protection

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IN THE MATTER OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS  
TO THE ADOPTED AND APPROVED SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE  
UNION COUNTY SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

CERTIFICATION  
OF THE JULY 24, 1997  
AMENDMENT TO THE UNION COUNTY  
DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER:

A. Introduction

The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq.) established a comprehensive system for the management of solid waste in New Jersey. The Act designated all twenty-one (21) of the state's counties, and the Hackensack Meadowlands District, as Solid Waste Management Districts, and mandated that the Boards of Chosen Freeholders and the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission develop comprehensive plans for waste management in their respective districts. On August 13, 1980, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP) approved, with modifications, the Union County District Solid Waste Management Plan (County Plan).

The Act requires that all district plans be based on and accompanied by a report detailing the existing waste disposal situation in the district, and a plan which includes the strategy to be followed by the district in meeting the solid waste management needs of the district for a ten-year planning period. The report must detail the current and projected waste generation for the district, inventory and appraise all facilities in the district, and analyze the waste collection and transportation systems which serve the district. The disposal strategy must include the maximum practicable use of resource recovery techniques. In addition to this strategy, the plan must designate sufficient available suitable sites for the disposal of the district's waste for a ten-year period, which sites may be in the district or, if none are available, in another district. (The Act provides procedures for reaching any necessary interdistrict agreements.)

The Act further provides that a district may review its County Plan at any time and, if found inadequate, a new County Plan must be adopted. The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders (County Freeholders) completed such a review and on July 24, 1997, adopted an amendment to its approved County Plan.

The amendment includes within the County Plan Global Recycling Technologies, Inc. as a recycling center for Class D materials to be located in the City of Rahway, Union County.

The amendment was received by the Department on August 18, 1997, and copies were distributed to various administrative review agencies for review and comment, as required by law. The Department has reviewed this amendment and has determined that the amendment adopted by the County Freeholders on July 24, 1997 is approved as provided in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24.

**B. Findings and Conclusions with Respect to the Union County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(1), I have studied and reviewed the April 22, 1997 amendment to the County Plan according to the objectives, criteria, and standards developed in the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan and I find and conclude that this plan amendment is consistent with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan. In this regard, the County Freeholders and the applicant are notified of the issue of concern relative to the July 24, 1997 amendment which is included in Section B.2. below.

In conjunction with the review of the amendment, the Department circulated copies to fifteen federal and state administrative review agencies and solicited their review and comment. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24a(2) and (3), these agencies included various bureaus, divisions, and agencies within the Department. All agencies contacted are as follows:

Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP  
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP  
Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP  
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP  
Division of Water Quality, DEP  
Office of Air Quality Management, DEP  
Green Acres Program, DEP  
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Health  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Community Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1. Agency Participation in the Review of the July 24, 1997 Amendment

The following agencies did not object to the proposed amendment:

Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP  
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, DEP  
Division of Compliance and Enforcement, DEP  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Transportation  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority

The following agencies did not respond to our requests for comment:

Green Acres Program, DEP  
Land Use Regulation Element, DEP  
Department of Health  
Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Advisory Council on Solid Waste Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following agencies provided substantive comments as shown in Section B. of the certification document.

Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, DEP  
Division of Water Quality, DEP  
Office of Air Quality Management, DEP

2. Issue of Concern Regarding the April 22, 1997 Amendment

**Issue: Historical Background**

The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) previously implemented an initial pilot program for the collection, transportation, and recycling of certain fluorescent lamps and other mercury containing lamps to reduce mercury in the solid waste stream of Union County. The UCUA determined that it would be in the best interest of the UCUA and the citizens of Union County to expand the scope of the pilot spent lamp recycling program and to modify its former mobile program by procuring a vendor which would establish a depot in Union County to accept certain fluorescent and other mercury containing lamps. A Request for Bids for operation of the pilot spent lamp recycling program was issued by the UCUA and Global Recycling Technologies, Inc. submitted the lowest bid and was designated by the UCUA as the vendor to establish said depot. On April 1, 1996, DEP issued a Certificate of Authority to Operate (CAO)/Demonstration Project Approval to the UCUA to operate a spent mercury containing lamp recycling program valid for two years from the date of facility start-up. The purpose of this CAO is to assist the Department in a feasibility study to determine if spent mercury containing lamps should be added to the current Universal Waste Rule. Under this feasibility study, mercury containing lamps

are managed as universal or Class D recyclable waste pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1 et seq. Therefore, the subject point(s) which manage mercury containing lamps would be designated as Class D recycling center (s) and Condition 7 of the CAO requires that said facility(ies) be designated as such in the County Plan. Finally, aside from the CAO, no other approvals or permits are necessary from the DEP's Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste at this time for the consolidation of mercury containing lamps. However, the materials to be recycled should be managed in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations and, if mercury containing lamps are included within the Universal Waste Rule, a Class D recycling center approval may be required.

**Issue: Regulatory Requirements**

If any operation of a recycling center will discharge pollutants as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:14-1.9, said operation must secure a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and/or a Treatment Works Approval for pollutant discharges prior to operation.

Recycling centers are subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:27-5, "Prohibition of Air Pollution." This regulation prohibits the release of odors and other air contaminants which interfere with the enjoyment of life and property.

**C. Certification of the Union County District Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., specifically N.J.S.A. 13:1E-21, which establishes specific requirements regarding the contents of the district solid waste management plans, I have reviewed the July 24, 1997 amendment to the approved County Plan and certify to the County Freeholders that the July 24, 1997 amendment is approved as further specified below.

The County Plan inclusion of Global Recycling Technologies, Inc. as a recycling center for Class D materials to be located at 1453 Pinewood Street in the City of Rahway, Union County is approved. Specifically, the recycling center will recycle spent fluorescent lamps and other mercury containing lamps. As noted in Section B.2., operation of this facility must be in compliance with the CAO issued by the Department on April 1, 1996.

**D. Other Provisions Affecting the Plan Amendment**

**1. Contracts**

Any contract renewal or new contract for solid waste collection or disposal which is inconsistent with this amendment to the County Plan and which was executed prior to the approval of this amendment and subsequent to the effective date of the Solid Waste Management

Act (July 29, 1977), and which shall further be for a term in excess of one year, shall immediately be renegotiated in order to bring same into conformance with the terms and provisions herein set forth. Any solid waste collection operation or disposal facility registered by the Department and operating pursuant to a contract as herein described, shall be deemed to be in violation of this amendment and of the County Plan if such renegotiation is not completed within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this amendment provided, however, that any such registrant may, upon application to the Department, and for good cause shown, obtain an extension of time to complete such renegotiation.

## **2. Compliance**

All solid waste facility operators and transporters registered with the Department and operating within the County and affected by the amendment contained herein shall operate in compliance with this amendment and all other approved provisions of the County Plan. Any facility operator or transporter who fails to comply with the provisions contained herein shall be deemed to be in violation of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:26-1 et seq., and in violation of their registration to operate a solid waste facility or a collection system issued thereunder by the Department and shall be subject to the provisions and penalties of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-9 and 12 and all other applicable laws.

## **3. Types of Solid Wastes Covered by the District Solid Waste Management Plan**

The provisions of the District Plan shall apply to all solid wastes defined in N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and N.J.A.C. 7:26-2.13 and shall not apply to liquid waste, sewage sludge, septage, and hazardous waste. All nonhazardous materials separated at the point of generation for sale or reuse and all construction and demolition waste classified as Type 13C are excluded from the waste flows designated in the Interdistrict and Intradistrict Solid Waste Flow Rules set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26-6, but are subject to regulation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1 et seq.

## **4. Certification to Proceed with the Implementation of the Plan Amendment**

This document shall serve as the certification of the Commissioner of the Department to the County Freeholders and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-24c. and f., the County shall proceed with the implementation of the approved amendment certified herein.

## **5. Definitions**

For the purpose of this amendment and unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions of terms shall be the same as those found at N.J.S.A. 13:1E-3 and -99.12, N.J.A.C. 7:26-

1.4, -2.13, and N.J.A.C. 7:26A-1.3.

**6. Effective Date of the Amendment**

The amendment to the County Plan contained herein shall take effect immediately.

**7. Reservation of Authority**

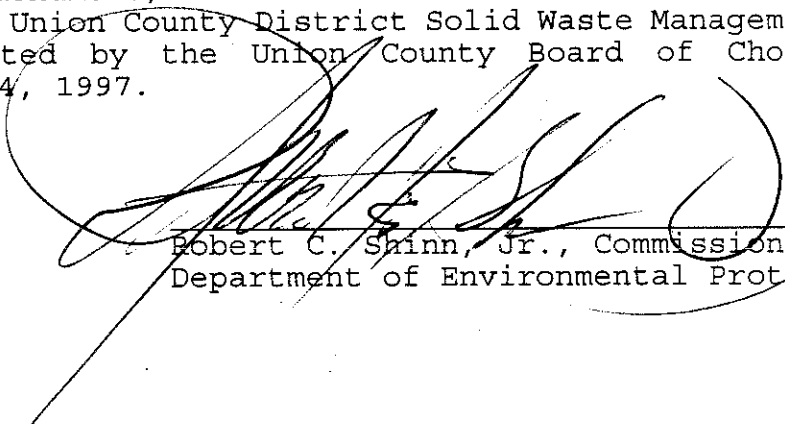
Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a limitation on any other action taken by the Department pursuant to its authority under the law. The County Plan, including any amendment made thereto, shall conform with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan, with appendices, which includes the Department's planning guidelines, rules, regulations, orders of the Department, interdistrict and intradistrict waste flow rules, and also includes the compilation of individual district plans and amendments as they are approved.

**E. Certification of Approval of the Amendment by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection**

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., I hereby approve the amendment, as outlined in Section C. of this certification, to the Union County District Solid Waste Management Plan which was adopted by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders on July 24, 1997.

Date

10/7/97

  
Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection