

State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation



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SCI FINDS PERSISTENT DUMPING OF TAINTED SOIL AND DEBRIS

TRENTON – Elements of New Jersey’s commercial recycling industry remain open to abuse and manipulation by unscrupulous operators who exploit gaps in regulatory oversight to profit from the indiscriminate disposal of contaminated material, the State Commission of Investigation reported today.

The SCI’s follow-up inquiry into the dark side of Class B recycling focused primarily on the activities of individuals and entities that have profited from the unregulated and improper disposal of substantial amounts of contaminated soil and debris on private property in Monmouth County.

The findings lend renewed urgency to enactment of pending legislation (S1683 and A4267) that, at a minimum, would require criminal background checks and licensure

for anyone seeking to engage in Class B recycling, particularly as it applies to the handling, shipment and disposal of soil and debris from construction and demolition operations.

Analysis of dirt and other materials dumped at the Monmouth site – a horse farm in Marlboro Township – determined that several locations on the property are now contaminated with toxic and known or suspected cancer-causing substances that exceed acceptable New Jersey environmental standards.

In addition enacting the legislation, the Commission called for the establishment of a chain-of-custody requirement for laboratory test results to ensure that Class B materials are properly examined and determined safe for disposal at appropriate facilities. Those who fail to comply with rules governing possession of certified lab test results should be subject to criminal penalties.



The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. Copies of reports are available at the Commission's offices or via its Web site at www.state.nj.us/sci.