

TOWNSHIP OF ROXBURY

Interoffice Memo

To: Area Media Outlets
From: Christopher Rath, Township Manager
Subject: Fenimore
Date: March 14, 2014

For Immediate Release

Roxbury Mayor and Council call NJ DEP landfill remediation plan inadequate; Urges state to provide more data to ensure the health and safety of residents

Roxbury, NJ – The Roxbury Township Council today said the remediation plan for the Fenimore landfill presented to residents on March 11 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is “wholly inadequate” and called on the state to provide additional data to support its conclusions.

Mayor Jim Rilee said: “We were extremely disappointed with the presentation made by DEP officials at our Council meeting on Tuesday. The health and safety of Roxbury residents must be the most important consideration in determining how to repair the significant damage done to our community because of the reopening of the landfill. Clearly, the DEP was not adequately prepared to respond to questions from residents.”

Rilee said he contacted NJ DEP Commissioner Bob Martin’s office on Friday, March 14, and said the DEP should stop any action it plans to take if it would rule out implementing other remediation options in the future, including trucking out the material that was dumped in the landfill. He also noted that DEP officials failed to adequately address resident’s concerns about air and water quality.

The Council has sent the DEP’s remediation report to its own independent experts for their review and recommendations. Following that review, the town is expected to receive the remediation report it commissioned. A public presentation on that report is expected to follow.

“We are outraged that the DEP failed to provide adequate supporting data showing their remediation plan is the most effective way to protect the health and safety of Roxbury residents. The Council demands that the state provide factual evidence that they are working on a solution that will ensure clean air and clean water for Roxbury’s residents. Anything less is completely unacceptable,” Rilee said.

“This is too important a decision for the DEP to act without demonstrating to our satisfaction that they have thoroughly and completely considered all of the options,” Rilee added. “The Council and I will continue to demand that the DEP show us compelling data that supports its conclusions and that its plan is based only on what is best for Township residents.”

For more information regarding this press release please contact Chris Rath at rathsc@roxburynj.us or 973-448-2002.