



County Executive John R. Leopold  
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December 28, 2010

Mr. Robert Summers, Acting Secretary  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

RE: Assessment Report on CCB Disposal at the BBSS site in Gambrills

Dear Mr. Summers: *Bob*

I strongly urge you to review and implement the findings in the assessment report prepared by Dr. Edward Bouwer, Department Chair of Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, on the contamination and remediation of fly ash at the BBSS site in Gambrills, Maryland.

The assessment report identifies key monitoring well data from the BBSS site that remains a public health and environmental concern. While levels of sulfate, chloride, and arsenic are showing decreasing trends in MW 7, levels of thallium and nitrate persist and are a public health concern. The report concludes that the remediation system is inadequate in reducing the levels of sulfate, chloride, lithium, cadmium, and thallium in ground water at MW 13, and that leachate extends beyond the current monitoring well network. The report finds that the monitoring well network does not sufficiently characterize the extent of ground water contamination, and that a potential exists for fly ash to move vertically in ground water. This finding signals the need for immediate action.

I continue to have great concern for the migration of fly ash in ground water, since Anne Arundel County residents rely on a series of public wells as their drinking water source. The public wells draw ground water from the Lower Patapsco aquifer and are located down gradient from the BBSS site. I agree with the assessment report's recommendation to install additional monitoring wells in the Upper and Lower Patapsco aquifers. Additional monitoring wells would more accurately characterize the extent of ground water contamination beyond the BBSS site, and I respectfully urge you to promptly move forward with this recommendation.

The disposal of coal ash and coal combustion residuals at the BBSS site in Gambrills, Maryland remains a serious public health and environmental concern. I understand that MDE has not given final approval of the Alternatives Analysis and Proposed Remediation Report prepared by Natural Resource Technology, Inc. The Declaration of Restrictive Covenants, required by the consent decree, addresses future site development above cells used for fly ash disposal. Dr. Bouwer's assessment report recommends against site development until the Alternatives and Proposed Remediation Report has received approval and suggests that remediation of the site may entail partial removal of the existing fly ash. Based on these recommendations, I request that you consider the findings from the assessment report and implement a remediation plan that is consistent with its findings, as soon as possible.

I continue to support legislation that protects Anne Arundel County residents from this type of hazard. I secured County Council approval of legislation which I proposed banning the disposal of coal ash and other coal combustion residuals in Anne Arundel County. Please consider whether additional legislative remedies are needed in response to the assessment report's findings.

Anne Arundel County residents must be assured that they are adequately protected from fly ash. Without the additional monitoring well data, Anne Arundel County will not be assured that the contamination has been confined to the BBSS site and that the public water supply has not been adversely impacted.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. LEOPOLD  
County Executive

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor