

Ul. v. Cateret, Old Bridge

1986

- Cover letter between counsel
- 2 newspaper articles

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April 15, 1986

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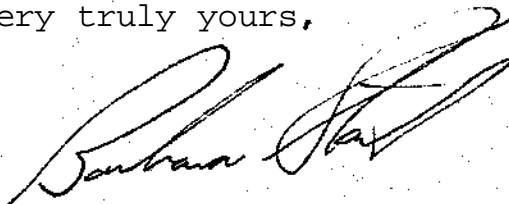
Re: Urban League, et al. vs. Carteret, et al.

Dear Mr. Convery:

Enclosed please find copies of two recent newspaper articles regarding the Global Landfill.

Please advise as to the location of this landfill and its proximity to planned Mount Laurel developments.

Very truly yours,



encls

cc/Mr. Roy Epps

President, Civic League (w/encls)

4/7/86

Old Bridge to probe risks of illegal dump

By GABRIEL H. GLUCK

Old Bridge Mayor Russell Azzarello said yesterday he would call for a "full investigation" into an illegal dump site near the old Global Landfill in Middlesex County where several hundred industrial barrels, some leaking unidentified colored liquids, have been discovered.

Azzarello said he will ask for a probe of the dump site to determine whether any health dangers exist and to find out—if possible—who dumped the barrels.

The mayor said he has learned that some officials may have been aware of the presence of the drums several years ago.

"I want to get all the parties together and get a full report," Azzarello said. "If there was some knowledge of this years ago, then I want to find out what happened."

Azzarello said some of the discoloration in the water at the marshy site may be due to natural causes, but that the area must be tested.

"I'd rather be safe and know what's going on," he said.

An inspection team of health and environmental officials is scheduled to visit the site this morning. The 55-gallon drums, many of them empty and deteriorated, became visible after recent rains washed away topsoil.

A local resident who was walking through the area last Friday found the drums and contacted state environmental authorities.

The site is bordered by the old Global Landfill, which was closed two years ago, and several apartment complexes. However, the barrels are not in the area once used for the landfill.

After visiting the site on Saturday, Blanche Hoffman, chairman of the Old Bridge Environmental Commission, said it appears to present no "immediate danger." She said local, county and state inspectors will take test samples from the area today.

However, Hoffman cautioned that children should stop playing in the area, which is often used for dirt-biking and other games.

From the degree of rusting and decomposition of the barrels, it appears the drums were buried at the site quite a few years ago, according to Hoffman.

"Some fluids will have to be tested, the color is bad. It does not seem to be anything serious, but it will have to

be tested and a determination made she said.

Hoffman inspected the site, not far from the London Terrace apartment complex on Westminster Boulevard along with Azzarello, township Health Officer Tom Sikorski and local police.

"There are a lot of barrels there," said Hoffman. "But it appears they have been there for a long period of time. We did not find any new barrels but there are things that should be investigated."

Hoffman said that in addition to finding pools of multi-colored fluids they also found ash.

Bernard Lamb, the local resident who called state environmental officials about the dumping ground, said he found tractor-trailer tire tracks in the area and that he was also concerned that dumping of hazardous fluids may be continuing.

Hoffman said that while local officials saw evidence of tire tracks, they could not be sure of their origin.

"It is an open area and anybody could come in with a truck," she said.

Azzarello said that area youths drive four-wheel dune buggies in the area and that he believed getting a commercial vehicle into the site "would be almost impossible."

There have been requests recently that the entire Global Landfill area, approximately 100 acres, be fenced in to prevent illegal dumping and children playing in the area. The landfill is located in the middle of a salt marsh adjacent to Cheesequake State Park.

However, the township environmental commission is concerned that the costs of fencing the perimeter of the huge dumping site would take away necessary funds that have been set aside in a \$4.5 million escrow account to cap the landfill and build monitoring wells, according to Hoffman.

"I think the residents are worried about an open area, about 1,000 feet from their homes. They are concerned about the unknown," said Hoffman.

"I think parents should instruct their children not to play in the area," she said. "You have to instruct your children that this is dangerous to them."

Lamb said he is worried about the health hazards that could arise from underground seepage of hazardous waste materials.

Small traces of pollutants found in ground at Old Bridge barrel dump

By TOM HAYDON

Inspectors from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) yesterday found traces of chemical pollutants in the ground around barrels located near the former Global Landfill in Old Bridge, a spokesman for the DEP said.

But although additional soil and water samples must be taken because of these findings, the traces of volatile organic chemicals are 'little or no threat to public health, according to

DEP spokesman James Staples.

Municipal officials yesterday said the barrels, located outside the Global Landfill, which was closed two years ago, probably have been there more than 15 years and probably were dumped there when the area was a township landfill, separate from Global.

"There was apparently a landfill there in the late '60s at a time when there were no laws against dumping chemicals or barrels," said Staples.

Municipal, county and state health and environmental officials yesterday

Officials see little health threat from drums near closed landfill

hiked through the brush and marsh to examine the rusted drums a resident reported finding last Friday.

Eugene Dunlop, president of the Old Bridge Township Council, who surveyed the barrels with the health and environmental officials, said yesterday

he had inspected township records and discovered that the municipal dump had been located on that site until it closed in 1968. Dunlop also said the township would have to examine records to determine who owns the property.

Old Bridge Health Officer Thomas Sikorski said he was unaware of the barrels until he saw reports in a newspaper Saturday. He added, however, that "as far as we know there's nothing more recent than 1968 (dumped at the site)."

Councilman Thomas O'Malley yesterday said he would seek to have the area closed to the public.

"My concern is protecting the people and keeping them away from it," he said.

Officials from the township and

the Middlesex County health departments and the DEP inspected several piles of deteriorating barrels and found a small amount of a hard, glassy-looking substance. There were 5 to 12 barrels in each pile at the site located near Westminster Boulevard, behind the London Terrace apartments.

Richard Kozub of the hazardous materials division of the Middlesex County Health Department said there were about 150 barrels, visible from the surface, on the 230-acre site and about 30 had materials in them. He said small amounts of paint resin and roof tar were found in some and that the material would have to be removed.

Kozub said the materials and the barrels were not an imminent threat to public health.

Some of the barrels were partially imbedded in the ground and vegetation had grown over others.

"You can note that there's a free growing through that drum. That's not something that happened overnight," said Robert Heimbuch, also of the county health department.

Kozub said that county and state officials would decide today, based on observations made yesterday, whether it was necessary to collect soil and water samples. He said county and state officials would also examine township records to find the past and present owners of the property.

Staples, who said DEP inspectors took air samples at the site, added that inspectors suspect there are more barrels under the surface.

Old Bridge Mayor Russell Azzarello said yesterday he wants a full report on the barrels and, if possible, the containers traced back to their owners.

Azzarello also said, "We feel that we have it pretty much under control and that there's nothing to alarm the public."

