



sanitation

October 20, 2004

RE: Draft New Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan –Final Scoping Document for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Elected Official/Involved Agency/Interested Party:

The New York City (City) Department of Sanitation (DSNY) issued a Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the next twenty-year planning period (Draft New SWMP) earlier this month. DSNY, as lead agency, will issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this action, pursuant to the City Environmental Quality Review Procedures and the State Environmental Quality Review Act. To develop the scope of the Draft New SWMP DEIS, DSNY issued a Draft Scoping Document on May 17, 2004 and conducted an enhanced public participation process that included ten public scoping meetings and a public comment period which ran from May 17 through July 11, 2004.

The Final Scoping Document for the DEIS, enclosed for your review, has been revised to reflect refinements to the Proposed Action and the consideration of comments received during the public scoping meetings and public comment period. Members of the public may also view copies of the Draft New SWMP, Final and Draft Scoping Documents and Environmental Assessment Statement on the DSNY web page at www.nyc.gov/sanitation, at the Public Document Repositories listed in the Final Scoping Document (see Table 1.7-1).

As forecast, the enclosed Final Scoping Document contains a detailed synthesis of comments received during the public scoping process and responses thereto (see Attachment C). An Appendix B that contains a compendium of all written comments received during the public comment period, as well as additional copies of the Final Scoping Document, can be obtained by contacting this office (917/237-5520).

As further discussed in the enclosed Final Scoping Document, the Draft New SWMP sets forth a cost-effective and environmentally responsible plan for the management of all of the solid waste generated in the City. In particular, the Draft New SWMP proposes to award a 20-year contract for the processing and marketing of recyclables and the development of a recyclables processing facility in the City, the development of four Converted Marine Transfer Stations (MTSs), the award of up to five contracts with private transfer stations for barge or rail export of DSNY-managed waste, to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to dispose of a portion of Manhattan's DSNY-managed waste at the Essex County Resource Recovery Facility in New Jersey. In addition, the Draft New SWMP includes a strategy to address issues related to commercial waste management, including a proposal to provide capacity for barge export of putrescible commercial waste from the City at the West 59th Street MTS in Manhattan, and stricter regulation of private transfer stations in the City.

The Draft New SWMP DEIS to be issued shortly, based on the Final Scoping Document, will be the subject of an enhanced public outreach effort and public hearings. DSNY encourages your participation in the upcoming New SWMP DEIS public process.

Sincerely,

Harry Szarpanski

Enclosure

c: John J. Doherty, Commissioner
Robert Orlin, Deputy Commissioner
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(Over)

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