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**THE NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
FOR THE QUEENS ALTERNATIVE  
TO THE PROPOSED GREENPOINT CONVERTED  
MARINE TRANSFER STATION  
HELD AT: 33-31 39th Street  
Sunnyside, New York  
June 30th, 2004, 5:56 p.m.**

**Reported by: MARC RUSSO  
Job#: 161267**

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2	<b>PUBLIC SPEAKERS:</b>	<b>PAGE:</b>
3	Gus Amato	17
4	Joe Ruzalski	19
5	Gertrude McDonald	24
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2 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

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4 **HARRY SZARPANKSI, P.E., Assistant Commis-**

5 **sioner,**

6 **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION, 44 Beaver Street,**

7 **12th**

8 **floor, New York, New York 10004**

9

10 **SARAH DOLINAR, DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

11

12 **ALSO PRESENT: JORGE FREIRE, Spanish Inter-**

13 **preter**

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2 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Good evening

3 everybody, my name is Harry Szarpanski,

4 I'm Assistant Commissioner for the

5 bureau of long-term export with the New

6 York City Department of Sanitation.

7 I welcome the opportunity to

8 appear before you tonight. With me is

9 Sarah Dolinar with the Sanitation

10 Department. We also have Susan Raila

11 and Dan Harkins with the firm of HDR,

12 Henningson, Durham and Richardson,

13 they're responsible for conducting the

14 environmental review for the

15 Department's projects. We also have

16 representatives of E&E who helped us

17 set up this meeting tonight.

18 As you may know, the Department

19 of Sanitation's preparing a new

20 comprehensive solid waste management

21 plan for the City to replace the plan

22 that will expire at the end of October

23 of this year.

24 The new plan for managing all

25 of the City's, the new solid waste

1  
 2 management plan, or as we refer to it  
 3 as the new SWMP, will plan for the  
 4 management of all of the solid waste  
 5 generated in the City of New York over  
 6 the next 20 years.

7 We expect to issue a draft of  
 8 the new SWMP in September. It will  
 9 need to be approved by the City Council  
 10 and by the State. The new SWMP will be  
 11 supported by an environmental impact  
 12 statement.

13 The new SWMP will rely on  
 14 current programs to recycle, compost  
 15 and prevent or reduce waste. A key  
 16 component of the new SWMP is the  
 17 long-term export of solid waste,  
 18 managed by the Department of Sanitation  
 19 through the state-of-the-art marine  
 20 transfer station facilities that are  
 21 proposed to be built at the City's  
 22 eight existing marine transfer station  
 23 sites in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens  
 24 and the Bronx.

25 These facilities will

1  
 2 containerize waste and transport it by  
 3 barge for disposal. The proposed  
 4 Greenpoint converted MTS would handle  
 5 the Department-managed waste from  
 6 Brooklyn community districts one,  
 7 three, four and five, as well as Queens  
 8 community districts one through six  
 9 only as in the past.

10 This program to build new  
 11 marine transfer stations is called the  
 12 MTS conversion program. A number of  
 13 private facilities are being evaluated  
 14 in the draft EIS as alternatives for  
 15 the Greenpoint converted MTS.

16 Three facilities in Brooklyn  
 17 Community Board One will be evaluated  
 18 for the long-term export of Brooklyn  
 19 waste that would otherwise go the  
 20 Greenpoint converted MTS.

21 One Queens facility located at  
 22 30-58 Review Avenue is being evaluated  
 23 for the long-term export of the Queens  
 24 waste that would otherwise go to the  
 25 Greenpoint converted MTS.

1  
 2 The Review Avenue facility is  
 3 proposed to export waste by rail or by  
 4 barge. If, as a result of the  
 5 environmental review and the review of  
 6 facility proposals, the Department  
 7 determines that there are viable  
 8 Brooklyn and Queens alternatives, the  
 9 Greenpoint converted MTS will not be  
 10 constructed.

11 Note that because Staten Island  
 12 has no existing MTS, a  
 13 truck-to-container-to-rail waste  
 14 transfer station of Staten Island  
 15 Department-managed waste is now being  
 16 constructed on the former Fresh Kills  
 17 Landfill site. That facility is  
 18 expected to be operational this  
 19 November. Rail export is expected to  
 20 begin in 2006.

21 We are before you tonight to  
 22 hear your comments on the environmental  
 23 review of the Review Avenue facility as  
 24 well as the proposed Greenpoint  
 25 converted marine transfer station.

1  
 2 In addition, we seek your  
 3 comments on all of the proposed actions  
 4 and alternatives outlined in the draft  
 5 scoping document we issued on May 17th.

6 The draft scoping document was  
 7 mailed to all of the elected officials  
 8 and community boards as well as to  
 9 environmental organizations and to our  
 10 regulators. It was placed on the  
 11 Department's website and in public  
 12 repositories in your community and nine  
 13 other communities that are the proposed  
 14 sites for the new marine transfer  
 15 stations or for alternative.

16 My comments tonight will be  
 17 brief; I will make a short power point  
 18 presentation before the public portion  
 19 of the meeting begins. Copies of my  
 20 statement and the presentation will be  
 21 available at the end of the meeting.

22 Should you require the  
 23 assistance of a Spanish interpreter,  
 24 please let the individuals at the front  
 25 desk know.

1  
2 Because the real focus of this  
3 public meeting will be your comments,  
4 please make sure that you take a moment  
5 to complete a speaker sign-up sheet if  
6 you plan to make a statement for the  
7 record. You'll be assigned a number  
8 and I will call your name when it is  
9 your turn to speak.

10 We're interested to make a  
11 complete record of your comments so  
12 please state your name clearly and  
13 slowly for the stenographer. And so  
14 that we can hear everyone who wants to  
15 speak, we normally limit the time to  
16 three minutes, but we'll be somewhat  
17 more lenient tonight because it doesn't  
18 look like a big crowd.

19 If you do not wish to speak but  
20 would like to provide us with written  
21 comments, please complete one of the  
22 comment cards we have provided for your  
23 use.

24 Thank you for coming and now  
25 I'll begin my short presentation.

1  
2 (Showing slides) The  
3 initiatives included in the new solid  
4 waste management plan include long-term  
5 export of waste; new recycling  
6 facilities to be built in the City and  
7 the management of commercial waste.

8 You can, as I mentioned before,  
9 you can provide us with verbal comments  
10 tonight if you fill out a speaker  
11 registration card. You can fill out a  
12 comment sheet we have available for you  
13 or submit a written comment if you  
14 prepared one, or you can mail comments  
15 to me no later than by July 9th to the  
16 address shown on the screen or to our  
17 consultants and both of these addresses  
18 will be in the handout that I give out  
19 at the end of meeting.

20 The proposed action is the  
21 marine transfer station conversion  
22 program, and the alternatives being  
23 evaluated include: Rail/barge export  
24 of waste from private transfer stations  
25 in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens;

1  
2 rehabilitating existing marine transfer  
3 stations to barge/waste to an  
4 out-of-city unloading facility and the  
5 delivery of waste in collection  
6 vehicles or barges to an out-of-city  
7 waste disposal facility.

8 This diagram just shows the  
9 location of our eight existing marine  
10 transfer stations as well as the  
11 alternatives that are being evaluated.

12 The converted MTSSs are planned  
13 for various locations, three in  
14 Manhattan, three in Brooklyn, one in  
15 Queens, one in the Bronx and the  
16 evaluation, the environmental review  
17 will also look at reactivating the 52nd  
18 Street Barge staging area in Brooklyn.

19 The objectives of the program  
20 include: Export waste by barge and/or  
21 rail; reduce in-city transfer trailer  
22 traffic; utilize more economical  
23 disposal capacity and provide more  
24 transfer transport and disposal  
25 options.

1  
2 This shows the Queens  
3 wastesheds and where they're planned to  
4 go. The yellow is the North Shore MTS  
5 wasteshed. The green is the Greenpoint  
6 converted MTS wasteshed and as you will  
7 see, it includes portions of Queens as  
8 well as Brooklyn.

9 This is a typical cross-section  
10 of the converted Greenpoint marine  
11 transfer station. Our collection  
12 trucks will arrive and go up a ramp,  
13 and once they're inside the building on  
14 the tipping floor, they will back up  
15 and unload the waste onto a lower  
16 section of the building called the  
17 loading floor. And on the loading  
18 floor, a front-end loader will push the  
19 waste into one of four slots in the  
20 floor.

21 Just below these openings is  
22 where the empty containers will sit and  
23 once the container is filled with  
24 waste, it will be moved to the next  
25 area of the building just to the left

1  
 2 where the lidding operation will take  
 3 place.  
 4 Lids will be lowered onto the  
 5 containers so the containers will then  
 6 be sealed, and once all this operation  
 7 occurs within the inside of the  
 8 building, the sealed containers will be  
 9 moved outside where a gantry crane will  
 10 lift the containers and place them onto  
 11 a barge.  
 12 The odor control system being  
 13 planned includes a ventilation system  
 14 to prevent air from escaping the  
 15 processing building. There will be  
 16 rapid roll-up doors so that the doors  
 17 remain open for less time. There will  
 18 be an interior water misting system to  
 19 reduce dust in the exhaust air and  
 20 state-of-the-art odor control that will  
 21 not just mask the odors, but will  
 22 neutralize them before the odor is  
 23 exhausted into the air so that there  
 24 are no detectable odors at sensitive  
 25 receptors outside of the building.

1  
 2 This map shows where the  
 3 location of the Greenpoint MTS is which  
 4 shows the DOT truck routes and the  
 5 nearest sensitive receptor.  
 6 Facilities are being planned so  
 7 that there's no truck queuing on the  
 8 street. The access ramps to the  
 9 facilities are longer. The ramps  
 10 themselves are designed to support the  
 11 queuing of trucks, and within the site  
 12 itself, this facility can accommodate  
 13 37 vehicles. Inside the building the  
 14 tipping bay has space for six trucks.  
 15 This aerial photo shows the  
 16 location of the existing marine  
 17 transfer station on top in white. And  
 18 that's going to be demolished to make  
 19 room for the proposed new marine  
 20 transfer station which will sit over  
 21 the footprint of the Greenpoint  
 22 incinerator which is also being  
 23 demolished.  
 24 The containers at issue will  
 25 use specially-designed intermodal

1  
 2 containers. They have leak-proof seals  
 3 and they will be lidded inside the  
 4 building and then once they're outside,  
 5 they'll be loaded onto a flat bed barge  
 6 so that no waste, no exposed waste will  
 7 exist outside of the building.  
 8 This is a photograph of typical  
 9 piece of equipment that's used to lift  
 10 and move containers.  
 11 The alternatives that are being  
 12 evaluated are, the rehabilitation of  
 13 existing marine transfer stations to  
 14 barge/waste to an out-of-city unloading  
 15 facility and containerizing Queens  
 16 waste formerly delivered to the  
 17 Greenpoint MTS at 30-58 Review Avenue  
 18 and export that waste by barge or rail.  
 19 Just to give you a sense of  
 20 what the timeframe is for this program,  
 21 we're conducting a total of ten public  
 22 scoping meetings, this happens to be  
 23 the ninth of those meetings we started  
 24 June 16th. And tomorrow will be the  
 25 last one of these meetings.

1  
 2 We're asking that we get  
 3 comments on the draft scoping document  
 4 by July 9th, but if you plan to fax  
 5 them to our office, you can fax them  
 6 until July 11th. We then anticipate  
 7 issuing a final scoping document on or  
 8 about July 14th. A draft EIS is  
 9 expected to be issued on August 6th and  
 10 the New York State DEC will hold its  
 11 permit draft EIS hearings between  
 12 September 8th and September 28th.  
 13 We anticipate that the City  
 14 Council will also hold hearings on the  
 15 draft solid waste management plan in  
 16 the month of September. We then will  
 17 be receiving comments on the draft EIS  
 18 between August 6th an October 8th and  
 19 anticipate publishing a final EIS on  
 20 December 9th.  
 21 We've established a toll-free  
 22 hot line for people to call in with  
 23 comments or questions and that number  
 24 is 888-NYC-SWMP and we've also placed  
 25 various documents for review at public

1  
 2 repositories.  
 3 I'll now open up the floor to  
 4 people who asked to make comments. And  
 5 the first speaker is Gus Amato.  
 6 **MR. GUS AMATO:** Good evening,  
 7 my name is Gus Amato, I'm with the  
 8 United 40's Civic Organization.  
 9 What I wanted to do tonight is  
 10 to give you a brief history of the area  
 11 you're talking about. To us, it's  
 12 known as the Phelps Dodge area.  
 13 (Adjusting mic) Good evening,  
 14 as I said before, my name is Gus Amato,  
 15 I'm with the United 40's Civic  
 16 Association and I want to give you a  
 17 brief history of the area that you are  
 18 referring to.  
 19 We refer to it as the Phelps  
 20 Dodge area simply because a hundred  
 21 years ago, Phelps Dodge opened a plant  
 22 down there and started contaminating  
 23 the soil, the air and everything else.  
 24 In addition, we had Van  
 25 Idersteins, Seafoo Fat; we even went so

1  
 2 far as to have a still down there, an  
 3 illegal still because of the fact that  
 4 it was covered by the stench from Van  
 5 Iderstein and Phelps Dodge.  
 6 Now, this area down here is so  
 7 badly contaminated that they finally  
 8 closed it down. The area is then  
 9 supposedly cleaned up by Phelps Dodge  
 10 at a cost of 25 million dollars, where  
 11 they should have spent 200 million  
 12 dollars in cleaning it up properly, to  
 13 the extent that the Post Office that  
 14 was originally scheduled to be built in  
 15 that area, changed its mind and said  
 16 no, we will not build in that area  
 17 because of the contamination.  
 18 Along comes the Galasso  
 19 Trucking (phonetic) and buys the area  
 20 and is having trucks going in and out.  
 21 Now, this is fine by us, we had a  
 22 trucking in there, we originally wanted  
 23 a park; it turns out that that wasn't  
 24 the end of the story. It seems that  
 25 there's an outfit called Cross Harbor

1  
 2 that is intending to build a tunnel  
 3 from New Jersey to Brooklyn and the  
 4 rail is terminating in that Phelps  
 5 Dodge area.  
 6 They're talking 7,000 trucks  
 7 per day, 24/7. In addition, you come  
 8 along and you want to put another plant  
 9 down there to handle Waste Management  
 10 and add to the additional trucks that  
 11 we already have coming into the area.  
 12 Now, this is all going to  
 13 contaminate the air to an extent I  
 14 can't even conceive. On top of this,  
 15 Kosciuszko Bridge is trying to be, is  
 16 going to be torn down from what I  
 17 understand and a new bridge put up.  
 18 Now, that's the Brooklyn-Queens  
 19 Expressway, Long Island Expressway and  
 20 then we have all these trucks coming  
 21 in. And I think United 40's is going  
 22 to be dead set against this problem.  
 23 Thank you.  
 24 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you for  
 25 your comments. Our next speaker is Joe

1  
 2 Ruzalski.  
 3 **MR. JOE RUZALSKI:** Hello, my  
 4 name is Joe Ruzalski, R-U-Z-A-L-S-K-I.  
 5 I represent the United 40's Civic  
 6 Association. I represent Diane Bowen,  
 7 you know, Community Board Two and I  
 8 represent people from Blissville and  
 9 Lower Maspeth.  
 10 Right now you have Triplex Oil  
 11 down there, the refinery, it's a  
 12 superfund pollution plant, they got to  
 13 clean that up first.  
 14 Right now you have nothing down  
 15 there, you have Waste Management right  
 16 alongside the railroad tracks. They  
 17 got trucks coming out of there  
 18 everyday, in and out, blocking up  
 19 Review Avenue. You must have about  
 20 4000, 5000 rats down there. People are  
 21 going to be walking down there, looking  
 22 down there, you can take the harbor,  
 23 you look at it.  
 24 There's nothing that you can do  
 25 it about. Right now in Brooklyn

1  
 2 underneath the Kosciuszko Bridge you  
 3 have the Waste Management down there,  
 4 and that's bad. No matter what you  
 5 look at, in Maspeth on Grand Avenue  
 6 you're going to have all congestion and  
 7 traffic.

8 At the end of Monitor Street in  
 9 Greenpoint, you had the sanitation down  
 10 there, they closed that dump. I don't  
 11 know why they closed it, it was doing  
 12 good, nobody was complaining, now they  
 13 open up a pollution thing down there.

14 Down on Provost Street, they  
 15 got waste down there. They're refining  
 16 it. Not matter where you go in  
 17 Greenpoint, what the hell is  
 18 Greenpoint, a dumping station for  
 19 everybody? And you gonna make it  
 20 Queens too. We don't need it. The  
 21 people of Blissville are fed up. And  
 22 word didn't get out at all. What we're  
 23 trying to do is get the word out.

24 If there's a compromise you can  
 25 work out somewhere, we can sit down and

1  
 2 talk, we have no problem with that.  
 3 Because you see before, we had  
 4 all oil down there, and underneath  
 5 there that Zonconi Oil (phonetic) was  
 6 down there, they infiltrated the  
 7 grounds with all that stuff. And then  
 8 they say Greenpoint stinks. Why does  
 9 it stink? Because you put things, you  
 10 do all the pollution down there, you  
 11 did, it's a dumping ground. And you  
 12 gonna make Queens the same thing. We  
 13 can't stand for it and we will not  
 14 stand for it.

15 Right now, they trying to  
 16 dredge out the Kosciuszko, underneath  
 17 the Kosciuszko Bridge, they want to  
 18 dredge all that water down there and  
 19 they want to put a little bridge around  
 20 49th Street into Greenpoint. That's no  
 21 good. They want to put the Kosciuszko  
 22 Bridge going down 2008, they gonna put  
 23 up another one. Yes, we got 'em  
 24 working on that, we're on that  
 25 committee.

1  
 2 The Phelps Dodge itself is got  
 3 all kinds of garbage down there and the  
 4 pollution is still down there. And  
 5 what you're talking about is putting  
 6 another thing down there, it ain't  
 7 going to work out. So, you know, if  
 8 the people only get out there and  
 9 listen and see what's going on, take  
 10 tours of the ground.

11 We had -- we had Assembly Woman  
 12 Nolan was down there, she get down  
 13 there and she came down and she put a  
 14 damn stink up and I'm very proud of  
 15 that woman. She came around and she  
 16 says, "Don't worry about nothing, we'll  
 17 do it, we'll look around." And we did.  
 18 You had all the people down there,  
 19 everybody complained but she was the  
 20 first one down there. That's why I  
 21 say, between her and Diane we got  
 22 nothing to worry about. We just got to  
 23 keep on fighting for it. If everybody  
 24 would get off their butts and get  
 25 involved, we would see what was going

1  
 2 on.  
 3 I'd like to know why they can't  
 4 open up Monitor Street anymore? The  
 5 sanitation down there. Does anybody  
 6 have an answer for that? I guess not.  
 7 All right, thank you.

8 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you for  
 9 your comments. Is there anybody else  
 10 here who signed up to speak?

11 If there is no one else here to  
 12 speak, we'll close the meeting.

13 **MS. GERTRUDE MCDONALD:** I just  
 14 want to say it's a disgrace that the  
 15 people in the neighborhood don't know  
 16 about this meeting. This is an empty  
 17 hall, and it's a serious problem and  
 18 there's some lack of communication  
 19 somewhere because this is terrible.

20 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** What we're  
 21 going to do is just provide us this  
 22 information for the record and state  
 23 your name, please.

24 **MS. GERTRUDE MCDONALD:** My name  
 25 is Gertrude McDonald, I'm on Community

1  
 2 Board Two. And I think it's a disgrace  
 3 that the public hasn't been notified in  
 4 a better fashion. There's no one here  
 5 at this meeting and it's very important  
 6 project that's coming in to our  
 7 community and when they don't know what  
 8 to do with it, a problem that they have  
 9 in the City, they dump it in Long  
 10 Island City. And I'm sure if the  
 11 public knew about this meeting, we  
 12 wouldn't be sitting here by ourselves.  
 13 So there's a lack of  
 14 communication somewhere. Were all the  
 15 elected officials notified of this?  
 16 They were all notified by your agency?  
 17 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** (Nodding.)  
 18 **MS. GERTRUDE MCDONALD:** And  
 19 none of them showed up? Well, I think  
 20 they deserve a few phone calls in the  
 21 morning which I'm sure they're going to  
 22 get.  
 23 So I'm very sorry that you had  
 24 to come out and have this presentation  
 25 to an empty hall. But is there any way

1  
 2  
 3 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you for  
 4 your comments.  
 5 Is there anybody else who  
 6 wishes to speak? If not, the meeting  
 7 is closed and I'll be glad to chat with  
 8 whoever wants to stay after this.  
 9 Thank you.

(Time noted 6:18 p.m.)

1  
 2 we can arrange another meeting? Where  
 3 is the next meeting going to be?  
 4 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Just for the  
 5 record, yes, all the public officials  
 6 were notified of this meeting. There's  
 7 another meeting coming up tomorrow in  
 8 Greenpoint.  
 9 **MS. GERTRUDE MCDONALD:** In  
 10 Greenpoint? Whereabouts, what's the --  
 11 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** We'll give you  
 12 the information right after this public  
 13 portion of the meeting.  
 14 **MS. GERTRUDE MCDONALD:** I  
 15 believe we had councilman, Councilwoman  
 16 Belay's office sent a representative  
 17 here. We want that known but the rest  
 18 of them certainly should have come if  
 19 they received their notification.  
 20 We'll check on that tomorrow, thank  
 21 you.  
 22 (Continued on following page.)  
 23  
 24  
 25

1  
 2 C E R T I F I C A T E  
 3 STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 4 : ss.  
 5 COUNTY OF NEW YORK )  
 6  
 7 I, Marc Russo, a Notary Public  
 8 within and for the State of New York,  
 9 do hereby certify that the within is a  
 10 true and accurate transcript of the  
 11 proceedings taken on July 30th, 2004  
 12 I further certify that I am not related to  
 13 any of the parties to this action by  
 14 blood or marriage and that I am in no  
 15 way interested in the outcome of this  
 16 matter.  
 17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
 18 hand this 6th day of July, 2004.  
 19  
 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 MARC RUSSO  
 22  
 23  
 24  
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