

April 18, 2023

Mr. David Pannucci, Regional Engineer  
Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site Holdings, Inc.  
1786 Salcman Road  
Waterloo, NY 13165  
via email: [david.pannucci@wasteconnections.com](mailto:david.pannucci@wasteconnections.com)

Re: First Environmental Assessment Review  
Major Permit Modification Application – Daily Tonnage Increase  
Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site (BRADS) Landfill  
Application No. 101679-A223  
Blythe Township, Schuylkill County

Dear Mr. Pannucci:

On November 2, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received an application from Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site Holdings Inc. for a major modification to increase the average daily volume and maximum daily volume from 1,500 tons per day to 3,000 tons per day and to change the waste acceptance hours to 6:00AM to 6:00PM at the Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site (BRADS) Landfill. A Local Municipality Involvement Process meeting was held virtually on December 22, 2022. The application was found to be complete and officially accepted on January 19, 2023.

**Environmental Assessment Harms vs. Benefits analysis required by §271.126-127**

The BRADS application is subject to the Environmental Assessment Process regulations and as such, the application included an analysis of the potential impact of the facility on the environment, public health and public safety including a description of the known and potential harms of the proposed project and mitigation plans that explain how each known or potential harm will be mitigated and the extent to which any known or potential harms remain after mitigation. The application also included a description of the benefits of the proposed project. The following summarizes DEP's review of the Environmental Assessment Harms/Benefits Analysis of the BRADS Daily Tonnage Increase application. The scope of this review is limited to harms and benefits of the daily tonnage increase proposal and does not consider harms and benefits associated with the current landfill as permitted other than to the extent that past performance can be used as an indicator future performance. The deficiencies identified are based on applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

**Form D Environmental Assessment Deficiencies**

---

1. In response to the Section D. Parks, BRADS requested updated feedback from the Schuylkill County Planning Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and the United States Department of Interior via letters dated November 12, 2020. It also appears the U.S. Department of Interior letter was re-sent on June 30, 2021. If responses to this correspondence were received or any additional more recent letter/contacts were made copies should be provided.

2. In response to Section E. Fish, Game, and Plants, BRADS requested updated feedback from the Pennsylvania Game Commission in a letter dated November 12, 2020. If a response to this correspondence was received or any additional more recent letter/contacts were made copies should be provided.
3. In response to Section H. Historic/Archaeologic, BRADS requested updated feedback from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) via letter dated November 12, 2020. If a response to this correspondence was received a copy should be provided or BRADS should complete and submit the results of a PHMC review through the PA-SHARE system (<https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/landing>).
4. In response to Section K. Zoning and Land Use, Item d., the applicant states “this project is being undertaken by the municipality.” The Township is no longer the permittee and therefore this answer is inaccurate and should be revised.
5. The information provided in the application for the overweight truck surcharge program consists of a Township Resolution and Township Notice of Violation form. Since the township no longer is the owner of the landfill, BRADS should provide a copy of the full Transportation Compliance Plan (TCP) with the language from the resolution incorporated. Also, if there is an updated Notice of Violation form with Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site Holdings, Inc. on it rather than the Township please provide a copy of that as well.
6. In the working face nuisances harm section, the application states that the facility has consistently operated devoid of complaint or related violation; however, this is incorrect as DEP has both received complaints and documented violations. Specifically, DEP received 19 complaints in 2020, 90 complaints in 2021, 40 complaints in 2022, and 16 complaints in January and February 2023. Most of the complaints have been odor related. BRADS was issued a Notice of Violation on April 22, 2021 for malodor violations.

The application also states that the frequency, intensity, reach and duration of harms associated with working face odor, dust, litter and noise does not correlate to the amount of waste disposed. Rather, the potential for such nuisance impacts is driven by other conditions (e.g., velocity and direction of wind). While this may be true for working face related odor, the application fails to identify as a harm and explain mitigation for odors from gas generation. Gas generation, and therefore odors, has the potential to increase with a larger volume of waste placed more quickly.

The site has a history of off-site hydrogen sulfide odors and has even installed a hydrogen sulfide gas treatment system to control odors; however, this is not included in the harms section of the application. BRADS should identify hydrogen sulfide odors as a potential harm and outline the mitigation measures the landfill takes to control hydrogen sulfide odors. Due to recent odor issues (complaints and DEP observations) BRADS should evaluate the efficacy of their mitigation measures and explain what additional measures will be taken to improve the mitigation of hydrogen sulfide odors. Furthermore, given that placing a larger volume of waste more quickly could lead to more gas generation and therefore more odors, BRADS should also identify what measures they will take to monitor and/or improve their mitigation to ensure it remains effective with the tonnage increase.

7. DEP issued a Notice of Violation to BRADS on December 22, 2021 for failure to construct a portion of the landfill in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. This led to further violations involving accumulation of leachate on top of the liner system and under the temporary berm liner. The Notice of Violation also cited BRADS for placing waste within 15 feet of the inside top of the lined perimeter berm. Proper landfill design includes mitigation measures to prevent groundwater impacts associated with leachate generation; however, in order for the mitigation to work, landfill design features must be constructed, operated, and maintained properly. Increasing the daily tonnage will result in the landfill being filled and constructed more quickly. This could potentially increase the chance for errors associated with construction, operation and maintenance, if proper checks and balances are not in place. BRADS should identify leachate generation and the potential for groundwater impacts as a potential harm and explain the facility's mitigation measures. BRADS should also explain any steps that have or will be taken to ensure violations similar to those in the December 22, 2021 Notice of Violation do not occur again in the future.

You must submit a response fully addressing each of the deficiencies set forth above within 90 business days.

If you believe that any of the stated deficiencies is not significant, instead of submitting a response to that deficiency, you have the option of asking DEP to make a decision based on the information with regard to the subject matter of that deficiency that you have already made available. If you choose this option with regard to any deficiency, you should explain and justify how your current submission satisfies that deficiency. Please keep in mind that if you fail to respond, your application may be denied.

Should you have any questions regarding the identified deficiencies, please contact Erika Bloxham at [ebloxham@pa.gov](mailto:ebloxham@pa.gov) or (570) 826-2273 to discuss your concerns or to schedule a meeting. The meeting must be scheduled within the 90-day period allotted for your reply, unless otherwise extended by DEP.

Sincerely,

*Roger Bellas*

Roger Bellas  
Program Manager  
Waste Management Program

cc: Martin and Martin, Inc. (via email: [knbodner@yahoo.com](mailto:knbodner@yahoo.com))  
Blythe Township (via email: [blythetwp@verizon.net](mailto:blythetwp@verizon.net))  
Schuylkill County (via email: [bhetherington@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:bhetherington@co.schuylkill.pa.us))  
Schuylkill County Planning Commission: via email: [ssmith@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:ssmith@co.schuylkill.pa.us))