

June 2, 1999

Mr. Clayton Ervine
Recycling Coordinator
8 Susquehanna Ave.
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Subject: **County Recycling Center Redesign**

Dear Clay:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Wyoming County with the results of the collaborative effort of R.W. Beck and Clean Air Group, Inc., in finalizing the design for the proposed County Recycling Center. With the imminent closure of the County's current Recycling Center due to a road construction project underway in Tunkhannock Borough area, a new facility is required for the County to continue recycling services. To ensure some level of continuity for recycling in the County, an Act 101, Section 902 grant application was prepared and submitted in the Spring of 1997 requesting funds to develop a facility to replace the existing operation. Due to limits in grant funding available at the time, the County was restricted in the amount of funding it could request. Therefore, the project proposed in the grant was designed to minimize the overall cost at the expense of some function.

After receiving an announcement that the Section 902 grant funds had been appropriated from the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), the County began reevaluating the actual costs associated with the proposed project. Given the elapse of time and the knowledge that additional funds would be available for the project, the proposed system was reevaluated to ensure the implementation of a system that serves the County's long-term recycling needs. This analysis identified changes from the original design that will be instrumental in the County meeting this goal. The project cost has increased significantly, but the changes improve material handling capabilities, maneuvering of equipment around the site and the comfort of the individuals working in the facility.

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SYSTEM

The proposed cost for the system in 1997 was approximately \$550,000 including Department and County contributions of ninety and ten percent respectively. Half of the proposed amount was associated with the building and half for processing equipment and engineering. Subsequent estimates for the building have suggested costs more in the range of \$400,000, and up to \$650,000 including items that were not factored into the original design because of limited funding, such as a truck scale, wall insulation and wall panels, concrete push walls,

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concrete bunkers, a six inch steel reinforced floor under the entire processing and storage area and an elevated sorting line. Additionally, the new cost projections include, asphalt paving over the entire area around the building which will be used for maneuvering collection and transport vehicles as well as outside lighting, fencing around the entire site, electronic gate for entry and a public drop-off area separate from the main building.

The Project went through numerous design iterations before a final concept was agreed upon by County representatives (including employees at the current operation), the consulting engineers and a DEP northeast regional representative. The iterations were derivations of the original design which specified a 120 foot long, by 70 foot wide and 26 foot tall pre-engineered steel framed building. The layout of the facility and the site in general were modified during the process to adjust for handling issues and allow for potential expansion in the future. The Project was also formatted for implementation in two phases. Phase one would utilize the existing grant monies, while phase two would implement items funded under a second anticipated grant round. The success of this overall project is contingent on the second phase grant being funded. Drawing-1, illustrates the measure to be developed as part of phase one, while Drawing-2, shows the items to be completed under phase two.

To arrive at the final concept design, the consulting engineers met twice with County representatives at the proposed site for the facility and once at the office of a local contractor that agreed to provide construction cost estimates for the building proposed in the project. The cost figures were used to support the engineering estimates to justify the project costs to the Department. Additionally, equipment vendors were contacted to reconfirm original cost estimates for the sorting line, horizontal baler and rolling stock. The final overall cost estimates for the Project are shown in detail by item, in Exhibit-1, and are broken out by costs to be funded by grants one and two.

Phase one or grant one, will fund the construction of the building and will enable the County to resume recycling material recovery operations in the new building using existing equipment. Phase two or grant two, will fund the procurement and installation of the new processing equipment, completion of site work, finish interior work in the building, installation of a truck scale and purchase of rolling stock.

Drawing-3, the Site Plan reflects the items to be completed as part of site development. It also shows the proposed building expansion area for additional storage space, in the event more storage area is required. This proposed expansion area is also reflected in Drawing-2. The building will be laid out on the site to allow for this expansion to be easily made in the future.

While the building proposed to replace the existing structure will be better designed to process recyclable materials it will be a smaller structure. To build a

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structure of equal size would be cost prohibitive. Therefore, the County will need to reevaluate the number of different items accepted to keep the project manageable in the new structure.

CONCLUSION

- Wyoming County would have difficulty successfully recycling materials in a facility that would be built and equipped with only the funds available from the current grant.
- Changes to the Project proposed in this Report would enable the County to offer more efficient recycling processing and marketing services into the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To minimize the downtime of the recycling program in Wyoming County, the County should use the grant funds available to replace the building scheduled for destruction by the road project and use existing processing equipment.
- A grant application should be prepared and submitted requesting funding to assist with development of a Project consistent with the proposals in this report.

If you have any questions relating to the materials presented, please do not hesitate to call me at (717) 730-0404.

Sincerely,

R. W. BECK, INC.

Richard Schlauder
Director of Environmental Services

cc: Kathleen Kilbane, SWANA
Carl Hursh, PA DEP
Rick Schlauder, R. W. Beck
Debbie Miller, R. W. Beck

NOTE: The attachments referenced in this letter include estimated costs for additional building construction, process line, and site plan, and drawings illustrating additional equipment and site plan construction. Copies of these attachments may be obtained by contacting R.W. Beck at (717) 730-0404.