

Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York on Monday, November 19, 1990 at 7:45 P.M.

Present: Joseph F. Janoski, Supervisor
John Lombardi, Councilman
Denise Civiletti, Councilwoman
Victor Prusinowski, Councilman

Also Present: Irene J. Pendzick, Town Clerk

Absent James Stark, Councilman
Patricia Moore, Town Attorney

Supervisor Janoski called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Janoski: "Let the record show that it is 7:47 P.M. and the Clerk will read the notice of public hearing."

P U B L I C H E A R I N G 7:45 P.M.

Town Clerk, Irene J. Pendzick: "I have affidavits of publishing and posting of a public notice for a public hearing to be held at Riverhead Town Hall at 7:45 P.M. on Monday, November 19, 1990 to hear all interested persons who wish to be heard regarding: **THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF OMNI TECHNICAL SERVICES.**

I have received comments on the D.E.I.S. from Denise Civiletti. Four pages of comments on Section II, Section V and Section VI."

Supervisor Janoski: "Let me restate that this is a hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which is a product of the SEQRA process, the State Environmental Quality Review Act. We have gone through a 30 day comment period in which we accept written comment, but we are also throwing in a public hearing. The law provides that you can do either or. We are doing both. So that there is no short coming in the process that we are going through. It is an opportunity for you to make comment on what is contained in the document called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Any issues that you feel need to be addressed in addition to what has already been done or you may think that it has been done adequately. So having said that I will recognize the applicant for a brief presentation of what they have done."

Mark Wagner, Project Manager for Omni: "Omni is proposing to design, build and operate a 500 ton a day Municipal Solid Waste Intensive Recycling and Composting Project. The location of the site is a 51 acre site opposite Fresh Pond Avenue on the

southside of Middle Country Road. The project includes receipt, recycling and composting of waste inside a totally enclosed 6 acre plus building. Omni will receive waste in the raw form or in the source separated form. It will go through extensive preprocessing of materials to remove nonpertressable and reject items through mechanical screening for separation. Additional sorting of paper goods. Ferrous removal by magnets. Additional hand sorting of paper, glass, cardboard and aluminum containers. Size reduction. Homogenization of waste with moisture addition, prior to introduction to a patented in vessel agitated trough composting system that was developed in West Germany. The material is composted in an aerobic state for 70 days indoors after which it undergoes final screening to remove glass, contaminates, pieces of plastic, other items. Additional removal of some light material and then into markets with the storage.

Omni is guaranteeing that 70% of the waste stream that is received will be recovered with the additional 30% of material suitable for either landfilling or for disposal at a resource recovery facility. There are no discharges from this facility other than the sanitary system that will be for the 16 employees at the site.

Traffic at the facility will be on the order of 50 trucks a day delivering waste and 25 trucks a day removing recyclables to markets. That is the project in a nutshell. Thank you Supervisor."

Supervisor Janoski: "Thank you. Anyone else from the Company wish to make a presentation? I will recognize anyone who wishes to be heard at this time concerning what is contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement."

Ann Miloski, Calverton: "First I would like to state that I am in favor of recycling and composting.

We are definitely opposed to the site presented by Omni, because it will have a great impact on the surrounding environment.

First. No recycling site should be put in an area where their only access into the site is a major heavily traveled highway. It will create a traffic hazard. The trucks leaving the site will be dripping their waste on the highway causing hazardous driving conditions. Also where will the runoff go? Into our groundwater. This site is in Zone 4; a natural groundwater recharge basin, another reason for poor site selection.

The composting part of this proposed plant is experimental in nature. It has never been done in an enclosed area. Where will the methane gasses and noxious odors go? Omni states they will have biodegradable filters in place. How do we know if this will take care of these problems? Ten years down the line are we going to find out that the filters didn't work and that airborne virus's caused by these gases have caused cancer? Are we willing to subject our children and grandchildren to this?

On page 219 of their D.E.I.S. report they stated that no product will be marketed in groundwater sensitive areas of Long Island. At an informational meeting they stated that the finished

product from composting will be shipped to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The finished product cannot be marketed in New York because it is not approved. Isn't this telling us something?

There are a lot of reasons this plant should not receive a permit to operate in this area. We have a large residential area nearby and also a large senior citizen mobile home park that is expanding, two restaurants, a retail store that sells cooked and fresh products and a shopping center. Garbage and dining does not seem to be a compatible use with what the Town zoned our CR Zoning area.

We hope the Town Board, Supervisor and Members will look at our area visually, study Omni's D.E.I.S. Report carefully and deny the Special Permit. Thank you for your time."

Supervisor Janoski: "Is there anyone else wishing to address the Town Board on the subject of the Special Permit of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement? We will be having a hearing on the Special Permit Application in the future. Any further comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement? Sherry."

Sherry Johnson, Program Coordinator of the North Fork Environmental Council: "I've reviewed the Draft D.E.I.S. for Omni Technical and I have a rather lengthy report. I'll read some of the highlights.

SUBSECTION 2.5.2 OPERATION.

This section states that the facility will operate 7 days. Hours of operation should be discussed, indicating hours when peak noise (grinding?) conditions will occur.

This section also states that the tipping floor will hold one day's worth of solid waste. The F.E.I.S. should include a discussion as to how this limited storage area fits into the process.

It is stated that a minimum detention time of fifty days will be used, if the entire process is based on a cycle of this time, how will a longer cycle be accommodated if necessary?

In the discussion of Class I and Class II compost here, it should be noted that size is not the only criteria used to determine whether the product is Class I or II.

The F.E.I.S. should include a discussion on treated types of waste wood (CCA lumber, railroad ties, etc.) and whether or not they would need to be handled differently.

It is acknowledged that there is limited data available on product quality. It then states that the compost product has minimal potential to impact either soils or groundwater when applied in agricultural situations because the product generally meets groundwater discharge standards. The F.E.I.S. should discuss the affects repeated applications of the product might have on soils and groundwater.

Finally, in this section the D.E.I.S. states that it is anticipated that there will be little or no demand for the product in the winter. Will the planned 3 month storage capacity be adequate? The F.E.I.S. should specify what action will be taken if it isn't.

SECTION III - SUBSECTION 3.2. WATER RESOURCES

In regard to the information on Hydrogeological Zones, it should be clarified that the Town is currently challenging the inclusion of the Landfill in Zone III.

SUBSECTION 3.4 TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

3.4.1 VEGETATION

Figure #11 appears to show an area not in active farming and possibly even wooded at the southern end of the parcel. A map showing on-site vegetation should be included in the F.E.I.S.

3.4.2 WILDLIFE

This section is inadequate. The F.E.I.S. should include a discussion on birds and wildlife that use, or are expected to use the site as well as on-site field observations. Site value as a migratory route between the Naval Compound and other open space should also be discussed.

SUBSECTION 3.5 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The D.E.I.S. states that approximately thirty (30) acres have been farmed, what is the current use on the remaining 20 acres?

SUBSECTION 3.6 HUMAN RESOURCES

3.6.2 Land Use and Zoning

Existing Land Use

Description fails to mention the proposed Deer Run Subdivision or Thurm's Estates.

Land Use Plans

Compatibility with the AICUZ study for Grumman is discussed. It is noted that the AICUZ study conflicts with the Town's Farmland Plan recommendations. I would point out here that CNR 2 is a "noise" restriction zone and that it is the same zone that covered the Manorville area which was rezoned to low-density residential in 1987.

Cost

This section also should have discussed Omni's projected tipping fee per ton, and how it would have fit in Riverhead's estimated costs.

SECTION V

SUBSECTION 5.2 WATER RESOURCES

5.2.1 Groundwater Quality

The F.E.I.S. should discuss Article 7 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Health Code whether or not it pertains to this project and how this project will comply.

5.2.2 GROUNDWATER USAGE

Pumpage for Site Irrigation

It should be noted that the D.E.I.S. states that presently 30 acres' are farmed and that when this project is completed there will be 28 acres of "extensive" landscaping (Section IX, page 9-1). It further states that additional agricultural activities related to research are being considered for the undeveloped portions of the rear 41 acres. The D.E.I.S. assumes only 4.6 acres will be irrigated. Is this figure too low? If so, what is realistic and how does this affect total water usage?

5.6.1 TRAFFIC

The F.E.I.S. should include an analysis of 100% of Brookhaven's waste coming from the west on routes 25A and 25. It

should also discuss traffic expected to be generated by the environmental center.

5.6.3.5 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The D.E.I.S. states that the remaining 30% of the waste stream not processed will be transported to a permitted landfill or resource recovery facility. The F.E.I.S. should identify all possible sites that are available on Long Island, in the tri-state area. The F.E.I.S. should also discuss if there is potential for a resource recovery facility on-site in the future.

5.5.6 NOISE

The F.E.I.S. should discuss Riverhead's noise ordinance, if it applies and how it will be complied with.

SECTION VI

Plantings along road frontage and entrance drives should be drought-tolerate native species that will reduce the need for irrigation and intense fertilization.

Additionally, the F.E.I.S. should fully discuss how the process will be affected and the changes that will be necessary if all, or a substantial amount of the waste that it receives has already gone through a recycling program. Thank you."

Supervisor Janoski: "Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to address the Town Board? Paul."

Paul Roth, N.Y.S.D.E.C.: "The Department will be submitting formal written comments to you as soon as we can get them out. I would just like to take this opportunity to say that the Department conceptually is in favor of the idea of mixed waste composting. It is high up on our hierarchy of the way we think solid waste should be handled in New York State. For those of you who aren't familiar with that hierarchy, the State has proposed that first waste be reused and recycled. Then after that possibly incinerated for energy recovery. And lastly landfilled. Composting technologies are considered synonymous with recycling. We are making this statement generically. We haven't as yet done a in-depth review of this particular project at this site. But generically we were looking at composting in a favorable light. We have some questions and concerns about composting. One of the other speakers here mentioned the fact that there is not really a proven track record as yet for these type of facilities in the United States. That concerns us also as far as the marketing of the product. We would not look enthusiastically at a contingency plan in case markets failed. For a contingency for the compost to be landfilled. We do not look at that very enthusiastically. So we want to be sure that the markets are out there. Especially as more and more of these type of facilities are come on line and perhaps saturate the market for compost materials.

We also have a few concerns, and I think Suffolk County will also have some concerns in that area, although I think their level of concern is perhaps a little bit higher than ours. We would like to sit down with Omni and discuss further concerns we have about the possible impact on aquifers from spreading compost right from municipal solid waste on Long Island. Even though I understand right now the firm intends not to market compost here

on Long Island. It may be that sometime in the future that situation might change.

So I think these type of technical issues are resolvable. If we felt that they wouldn't be, I wouldn't have made the statement that I did when I opened up my talk that we support the idea of mixed solid waste composting."

Councilwoman Denise Civiletti: "Paul are you the person at the DEC responsible for reviewing this D.E.I.S. and commenting on it? The Omni D.E.I.S.?"

Paul Roth: "We are going to try to get some comments to you. Yes."

Councilwoman Civiletti: "But is that your function or is it someone else in the Department?"

Paul Roth: "It would be my staff."

Councilwoman Civiletti: "Because we do have a SEQRA deadline that we would really like to meet and we want to get as many comments from interested agencies as possible so that they can address them."

Paul Roth: "I understand. The State's 900 million dollars in the hole. We are having staffing problems. I will get them to you as soon as I can."

Supervisor Janoski: "Well you wouldn't be in a hole if you didn't pass the law. God bless you. Is there anyone else who wishes to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement presented by Omni Corporation for the purpose of developing an intense recycling, composting facility? Any comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement? That being the case and without objection, I declare this hearing to be closed."

Public hearing adjourned at 8:05 P.M.



Irene J. Pendzick
Town Clerk

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