

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: February 25, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: A. Neuman (CEO); L. Trentacoste (Law); Commissioner Tom Lauro (DEF); Exec. Director Bruce Berger (SWC); E. Pepper (CCE); D. Snyder [list of other attendees on file]

Meeting called to order at 3:45 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: E&E Item No. 1, 4 – **Proposed Amendments to Source Separation Law and Proposed Legislation on Recycling of Plastic Bags**; E&E Item No. 20 – **Proposed Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Broadwater Terminal**

Committee Chair Abinanti opened the meeting with renewed consideration of the County Executive's proposed amendments to the county Source Separation Law (E&E Item No. 4). Ms. Trentacoste, Law Department, described revisions to the proposed legislation since the committee last considered the proposal at the February 4 committee meeting. Such revisions included eliminating the distinction between residential and non-residential recyclables and clarifying language on unauthorized confiscation of materials. Chair Abinanti requested that the proposal's exception on unauthorized confiscation apply to both removal and transport of the affected materials (last sentence, Sec. 825.45).

The committee reviewed the proposal's potential impacts upon businesses that transport waste (e.g., haulers, transfer stations). Commissioner Lauro noted that an upcoming meeting with trash haulers on March 10 at the County Center will allow for further communication and clarification of the Administration's recycling enforcement initiatives. Chair Abinanti requested that the Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) and the Solid Waste Commission (SWC) meet separately with the trash haulers to address their concerns (e.g., Attorney David Snyder representing several haulers). The Committee also discussed the operation of separate-stream versus single-stream

recycling by private transfer stations; however, this aspect appears to be unaffected by the proposed legislation. Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Nonna, the revised legislation was approved for all purposes (all in favor).

The Committee next considered proposed legislation that would require certain retail facilities to accept plastic bags for recycling at their location (E&E Item No.1). Mr. Neuman, County Executive's Office, described minor revisions to the legislation since the Committee's previous consideration on February 4. Chair Abinanti requested a minor language change ("used" in lieu of "defined"). Mr. Pepper, Citizens Campaign, stated that the proposal should include a provision requiring availability of re-usable bags, similar to Suffolk County and New York City legislation. Mr. Amico noted the difference in types of recycled plastic materials, and Chair Abinanti suggested that the Administration confer with Mr. Amico. Upon the motion of Leg. Maisano, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee approved the proposed legislation for all purposes (all in favor).

The Committee considered a proposed resolution in opposition to the proposed Broadwater liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Long Island Sound (E&E Item No. 20). Leg. Rogowsky questioned the magnitude of impacts stated in the resolution and requested further information. After discussion, the resolution was revised to include consideration of alternative energy sources and to note impacts to viewsheds. Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Maisano, the Committee approved the revised resolution (all in favor; Leg. Rogowsky without prejudice).

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee approved the February 4, 2008 meeting minutes (all in favor). Upon the motion of Leg. Nonna, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm (all in favor).

[audio recording of meeting is on file]