

A Partner to Clients with Environmental Needs

May 28, 2014

Bob Martin, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
P.O. Box 402
Mail Code 401-07
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

## Dear Commissioner Martin:

I am writing to respectfully bring to your attention the anniversary of an event that was in many ways a turning point in the management of solid waste in the State of New Jersey. Sadat Associates, Inc. is pleased to join Mr. Jack Whitman, President of Edgeboro Disposal, Inc. (EDI), in marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Edgeboro Landfill. Sixty years ago this year the Edgeboro Landfill in East Brunswick began to accept waste from surrounding townships. In 1972, the landfill, in conformance with the regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:26) that were promulgated by the newly formed New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, was duly registered and engineering plans for the facility were submitted to the NJDEP.

In 1977, EDI proposed the construction of the first fully engineered containment system for an existing facility in New Jersey. At its own initiative, EDI proceeded to contract for the design of a 15,784 foot long containment wall, commonly referred to as a slurry wall or cutoff wall. The New Jersey regulations at the time were silent on environmental and engineering constraints and specifications for such an endeavor.

To its credit, the Department provided leadership and assistance during the review and approval process and provided almost full time supervision of the construction during that period. The 15,784 foot slurry wall extends on average 60 feet into the subsurface and fully encircles an area of 309 acres. A state-of-the-art leachate collection system was constructed simultaneously.

The construction took approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years and, in 1984, culminated in the first state-of-the-art solid waste management facility in New Jersey. In 1982, EDI, anticipating the day when the landfill would be closed, established a closure/post-closure escrow account, which subsequently became the model that was adopted as an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Act. In 1985, solid waste disposal in the state reached a crisis point because of the closure of many landfills that were operated as open dumps. At the direction of the Department, EDI, which then had the only environmentally acceptable solid waste facility in New Jersey, was required to accept approximately half of the waste generated in the state. Daily, more than 1,000 municipal solid waste trucks were directed to the Edgeboro Landfill.

The implementation of these environmental controls subsequently allowed the Middlesex County Utilities Authority to operate at the site as the new Middlesex County Landfill. Today, this is the largest solid waste management facility in New Jersey.

As an environmental consultant practicing for more than 25 years, I have had the privilege of working with many fine clients on numerous projects that culminated in the protection of public health and the



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environment, enrichment of New Jersey's communities, and enhancement of the beauty of our state. None has been so forward thinking and environmentally responsible, however, as Jack Whitman, President of Edgeboro Disposal, Inc.

As I indicate above, there has been an impressive series of "firsts" throughout the years, dating back to the 1970s, at the landfill. Mr. Whitman's vision continued after closure of the landfill as the company subsequently restored the bank of the Raritan River along the perimeter of the property, enhanced portions of the site to be maintained as open space, and most recently transformed the closed landfill into a substantial producer of alternative energy.

In 2010, EDI embarked on the development of green energy from a portion of the remaining closed and capped landfill. Solar panels were installed and are generating approximately four megawatts of electric power daily. In addition, new construction for an upgraded gas collection system was initiated to curb the emission of fugitive greenhouse gases that were directed to a newly constructed 10 megawatt electric power generating station. Please see the enclosed photographs.

The combined development of alternative energy from solar panels and landfill gas from the same property is rare, and required many months of intense planning and design. I find it noteworthy that over 35 megawatts of clean renewable energy are being harvested from the 300 acre greater Edgeboro Site, while the site continues to serve as Middlesex County's current and future landfill. Together, these operations benefit the surrounding communities, and, indeed, all of us. I believe that given our current economy, growing need for sources of energy here in the United States, and the harmful effects of greenhouse gases, Mr. Whitman's efforts are well deserving of recognition by the Department. On behalf of EDI, I respectfully invite you and your selected staff members to visit the site, which has the largest landfill methane gas electric generating station in New Jersey.

I very much appreciate your consideration of the information I have provided, and sincerely hope that you would honor this facility with a visit at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

SADAT ASSOCIATES, INC.

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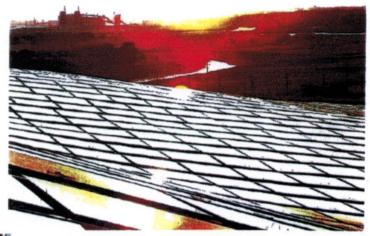
Enclosure

cc: Jane Kozinski, Assistant Commissioner

Mary Jo Aiello, Director Anthony Fontana, Bureau Chief



State of the Art Gas Treatment System



View of the Solar Panels



Power Generating Center



Control Center

Aerial View of Solar Panels