

October 13, 1995

Mr. Dante G. Ionata
Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corporation
West Exchange Center
260 West Exchange Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: RISWMC Special Newsletter re: the cancer risk

Dear Mr. Ionata:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the special newsletter you are preparing. I understand the need for the RISWMC to respond to the negative and misleading Providence Journal articles that have portrayed Central Landfill as the landfill from hell, however, your proposed Newsletter makes Central Landfill sound like Disney World. It is of course neither. The comments I've provided below are factual and I believe non-alarming. Please consider incorporating them into your Newsletter.

1. Page 1: Change "EPA FINDS NO CURRENT HEALTH RISK FROM CENTRAL LANDFILL" to "EPA FINDS NO CURRENT EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATION FROM CENTRAL LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE".
2. Page 1, paragraph 1: Delete paragraph 1 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A study completed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last year evaluated the potential for adverse health effects to occur if no cleanup actions were to take place at the Central Landfill. The study showed that there is no current adverse exposures to contaminated groundwater, soils or air. Potential future exposures would, however, pose a health threat if no cleanup actions were to take place.
3. Page 1, paragraph 3: Change "and the programs that would" to "and the cleanup actions that would".
4. Page 1: Change "CENTRAL LANDFILL PROGRAMS PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT" to "SELECTED SOURCE CONTROL REMEDY FOR CENTRAL LANDFILL WILL PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT".

5. Page 1, first paragraph under the above heading: Change “the Superfund programs” to “the selected source control remedy”. Also, please provide the reference for this quote.
6. Page 1, item 4.: Change “landfill were summarized” to “above exposures were characterized”.
7. Page 1, last paragraph: Correct typo. “analysed”.
8. Page 2: Delete all of page 2 and the first paragraph on page 3 and replace it with the following:

Groundwater

EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment evaluated potential adverse health risks which might occur via ingestion of groundwater. This assessment showed the potential for adverse health effects. However, it is very important to note that it is believed that no one is in fact using contaminated water for drinking water because a public water is available.

Soils on Landfill

Because the public does not have access to the landfill, exposure to contaminated soils on the landfill are not expected.

Air

Some low levels of air contamination were detected during air monitoring conducted at the Central Landfill Site. Air quality on-site meets OSHA standards and air contamination was no higher at downwind residential locations than upwind locations.

Additional Assessments Underway

EPA will evaluate in detail the risks to human health as a result of swimming in the Upper Simmons reservoir (i.e., exposure to water and sediment) and eating fish caught in the reservoir. The emissions from the landfill gas collection and combustion system will also be further evaluated.

Please call me at (617) 573-5779 if you have any questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,

James M. Brown
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Dick Boynton, Chief RI/NH Superfund Section
Dennis aRusso, RISWMC