



TOWN OF PEPPERELL
BOARD OF HEALTH
1 MAIN STREET
PEPPERELL, MA 01463
978-433-0328

RECEIVED

NOV 05 2018

Pepperell Board of Selectmen

October 31, 2018

Pepperell Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
1 Main Street
Pepperell, MA 01463

Re: Mass Composting Group, Inc., 161 Nashua Road Reclamation Project

Dear Chairman Nutter, Selectperson Greathead and Selectperson Ferolito,

We, (by right,) the Board of Health have an obligation to protect the citizens of the Town of Pepperell for current and future generations. Boards of Health in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease and protection of the environment from damage and pollution (Massachusetts Associated Health Boards.)

The Pepperell Board of Health has spent a considerable amount of time reading over the proposed reclamation project as well as other projects of this type, past and present, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Part of this review by individual members included a thorough review of MA DEP's vetted approved projects by Administrative Consent Order (ACO,) for example, "**Conclusion:** April 2017 sampling results obtained by ECR were in *general compliance* with the Acceptance Criteria contained in the Fill Management Plan. Deviations from the terms of the Administrative Consent Order are noted above (ACO – St. Mary's Cemetery Expansion, Tewksbury, MA.)" The reviews of various projects of this nature has raised some concerns amongst the Pepperell Board of Health members.

Some concerns of the Pepperell Board of Health, Figure 2 Proposed Reclamation Area (as part of Terra packet, dated 6/28/18) indicates "reclamation area" overlapping the permitted use of the Airport, as used by the Sky Dive Pepperell. This is concerning because this area is used for camping, by both RV's and tents, the area is also used for outdoor events held by Skydive Pepperell. Skydive Pepperell also allows Town of Pepperell Soccer Organization, North

Middlesex Lacrosse Association as well as Pepperell Baseball League to practice until the Town fields are allowed to open.

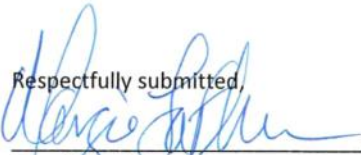
The Pepperell Board of Health would like to see a certified plan that shows the wetland delineation, approved by the Pepperell Conservation Commission. In an Oxbow Associates letter dated, 1/29/2018, "OA recommends you work with a Professional Land Surveyor and Professional engineer to determine the exact extent of the wetlands for site specific permitting."

Further, the Nashua Road Public Water Supply (NR-PWS) is located approximately 2,250 feet from the proposed fill site. The NR-PWS went online in 2011 and is a gravel packed well, 65 feet deep. "All five of Pepperell's wells serve the entire town, as each well is rotated in and out of service and the production is distributed through the system via a series of tanks and reservoirs. The actual number of properties served is dependent upon the demand, time of day, which well is running, which reservoir/tank is actuated," as stated by Mr. Ken Kalinowski, Town of Pepperell Engineer. We inquired for information on the NR-PWS as we reviewed a letter dated, October 21, 1984 from Bartlett Paulding, CG & PE. Mr. Paulding determined "the proposed gravel removal operation is close to and directly upgradient from a potential groundwater resource area. The regional drainage pattern appears that the groundwater flows generally northward through this sand and gravel aquifer. Under such circumstances activities associated with the gravel removal operation had to be controlled so that there are no deleterious effects...specifically, it is important that the following be observed, that the chemical contamination of the groundwater not occur as a consequence, for example, of spillage of gasoline, and/or diesel. Recommendations from Mr. Paulding included a hydrogeological analysis of the property and the adjoining areas which documents whether or not the proposed gravel removal operation would have a deleterious effect on the quantity or quality of groundwater entering..." With that being said we strongly recommend that a comprehensive hydrological analysis of the project site as it relates to the NR-PWS well be done.

Massachusetts citizens have not only begun to question the environmental devastation wrought by traditional large scale sand and gravel mining, but they have also come to see noise, vibrations, dust and increased runoff as forms of "pollution" against which they have a legal right to protection. (Earth Removal and environmental Protection, A. Dawson, 1/1/74); *Air Pollution* as defined by 310 CMR 7.00, means the presence in the ambient air space of one or more air contaminants or combinations thereof in such concentrations and of such duration as to: (a) cause a nuisance; (b) be injurious, or be on the basis of current information, potentially injurious to human or animal life, to vegetation, or to property; or (c) unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property or the conduct of business.

Also important to mention is a letter from the Nashua River Watershed Association dated August 14, 2018, enclosed for reference, and our support of this letter. The Pepperell Board of Health shares the same concerns that NRWA states in their letter.

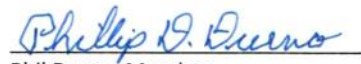
In conclusion, we urge the Pepperell Board of Selectmen to reject this project at this point. In the absence of a comprehensive hydrological analysis and a formal proposal from MCGI the Pepperell Board of Health cannot support the proposed project.

Respectfully submitted,


Margie LaFleur, Chairman



Virginia Malouin, Member



Phil Durno, Member

Cc: MA DEP, Attn: Mary Jude Pigsley
MCGI
TERRA
Pepperell Town Administrator
David McKay
ENC (1) NRWA Letter