



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Secretary

KENNETH L. KIMMELL
Commissioner

April 6, 2012

Emily and Michael Krasnik
23 Tanglewood Road
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Krasnik:

Thank you for your recent correspondence expressing your concerns relative to the Old Amherst Landfill. As you are aware, this landfill was closed in the 1980's under the programs and regulations that existed at that time. Different, more stringent standards exist today.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is aware of the conditions described in your letter and depicted in the accompanying photographs. These conditions have existed for many years and are monitored on a regular basis. The monitoring results at the site appear to be relatively consistent. The iron bacteria condition you describe is the result of the stripping of naturally occurring iron and manganese from the soils due to the organic loading of the former landfill. As part of the landfill closure and post-closure monitoring, MassDEP required the completion of a detailed environmental assessment (both an interim and a comprehensive site assessment) of the landfill, including groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, sediment sampling and landfill gas monitoring.

The impacted wetland did receive significant groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling in the area depicted in the photographs. Analyses were performed for a list of parameters including, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and RCRA 8 metals. The only parameter above any standard was arsenic in certain sediment locations. Additional sediment sampling was performed for arsenic and a quantitative risk assessment for the presence of the arsenic in the sediments was performed, reviewed by the State's Office of Research and Standards and was shown to pose no significant risk to human health.

Currently, the Town of Amherst is re-grading portions of the landfill in areas where settlement of the waste mass has created low spots that pond stormwater on the landfill surface and allow the cap to erode. This re-grading effort will not replace the landfill final cover in a manner that is consistent with current standards, but will promote the positive drainage of stormwater off of the landfill.

I wish to assure you that the monitoring of this landfill will continue for the foreseeable future and that all of the data collected will be carefully considered in the event the Town decides to move forward with any post closure use of the site. The construction of any post closure use (including but not limited to renewable energy) would need to be planned and implemented so that it does not impede the function of the cap.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Kimmell
Commissioner

Cc: Senator Scott Brown

Senator John Kerry

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Rick Sullivan

Secretary of Public Safety, Mary Elizabeth Heffernan