



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 24 2008

Mr. Roy Spears, Document Manager  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
U.S. Department of Energy  
3610 Collins Ferry Road  
P.O. Box 880  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Dear Mr. Spears:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) draft environmental assessment (DEA) for the Auburn Landfill Gas Electric Generators and Anaerobic Digester Energy Facilities project located in Auburn, Cayuga County, New York. The proposed action is to construct a centralized anaerobic digester facility to process approximately 250 tons of municipal wastewater sludge, capture the biogas, and blend it with landfill gas for cogeneration to produce up to 3.18 megawatts of renewable energy. The landfill gas will be recovered from the existing Auburn Landfill. The proposed anaerobic digestion and cogeneration facilities are to be constructed at the existing Auburn Wastewater Pollution Control Plant.

EPA commends the City for being a leader in demonstrating the environmental and economic benefits of alternate technologies and minimizing the use of an incinerator. We would like to take the opportunity to provide a couple of suggestions to further reduce air emissions. EPA suggests that the non-road construction equipment use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel during the construction of the facilities. In addition, the on-road wastewater sludge transportation vehicles should reduce engine idle times whenever appropriate, especially during the waiting period in the designated parking area until such time when the driver is instructed to proceed to the Receiving Station entrance to unload the sludge.

Based on our review of the DEA, EPA concurs with your finding of no significant impact and hopes that as part of the public notification process, the DEA was shared with the Cayuga and Onondaga Indian Nations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please call Nikolaus Wirth of my staff at (212) 637-3902.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Musumeci".

Grace Musumeci, Chief  
Environmental Review Section  
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch