



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
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Dominick D'Altilio, President
120 FINDERNE AVENUE
BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807

May 18, 2014

Dear Mr. D'Altilio

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2015 regarding recent changes the Department has made relative to annual reporting by certain classes of recycling centers. In that letter, you expressed your concern that "facility operators will believe they no longer need to provide municipal specific data. ... Facility data summarized by county rather than municipality will eliminate our ability to calculate those (municipal recycling) rates."

In response, please be advised of the following;

- 1) In the information sent to recycling center operators as part of this change in reporting (please see attached), a note, in red and in bold was included on the first page which reads: "NOTE: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26A-4.4(a) All operators of recycling centers shall provide a recycling tonnage report by March 1 of each year to the county of origin (if requested) and all municipalities from which recyclable material is received in the previous calendar year." If you have reason to believe that operators are not meeting this requirement, please do not hesitate to let us know, and we will follow up.
- 2) As you may be aware, the Department has not, as a rule, calculated municipal recycling rates. We annually update information on our website relative to county MSW and total recycling rates, but not municipal recycling rates.
- 3) A survey of those programs within the Department lead us to understand that, as a rule, no program within the Department utilizes or generally needs specific municipal data from recycling centers. In the event that such information is needed, the operators have been advised (see above) that they must maintain this information at their offices, and produce such information upon request.

Having recently reorganized staffing functions, facility data is undergoing a thorough review and the findings have been less than exemplary. Allow me to elaborate:

1. With over a thousand local names, it is a lengthy task of identifying incorporated municipal names based on local names.
2. Most facilities use zip codes to identify municipality of origin, yet dozens of towns share zip codes. Again, it is a lengthy task identifying the correct town.
3. The Municipal ID codes found in the Department's historic facility databases is inconsistent with current Municipal ID codes; therefore; historic data provides little value when querying at the municipal level. County queries remain intact.

Staff is currently in the process of preparing to amend N.J.A.C. 7:26A-3.17(c) and N.J.A.C. 7:26A-4.4(a) to reflect our needs in data collection, while leaving county and municipal requirements intact. It is anticipated that we may introduce the modification when other Division rule changes are made.

Finally, please be advised that the Bureau will reiterate to facilities the requirement to provide annual reports to towns and counties (if requested).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy Watson".

Guy Watson, Chief
Bureau of Recycling & Hazardous Waste Management