



**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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September 30, 2009

Amey Marrella  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Ms. Marrella:

First, congratulations on your appointment. I am always happy to see key state positions filled by people of talent, especially former municipal officials; I believe that local experience is the shortest path to wisdom. Good luck.

The purpose of my letter is to alert you to a significant environmental problem facing Stamford and to ask you for help. Stamford is home to a municipal landfill known as the Scofieldtown Dump which was closed in the late 1960s. Since then, it has been reused as a park, and more recently a leaf composting facility. While longtime Stamford residents have always known that the dump is there, I and others have recently become aware that the site may be posing significant environmental and health risks to its neighbors. In particular, we have discovered 15 residential drinking wells immediately to the east of the dump site that have wells contaminated with the pesticides Dieldrin and Chlordane.

As a result of the newly discovered well contamination and the renewed attention to the former dump, I see two significant challenges faced by the City of Stamford. First, we need to ensure that the 60 or so homes in the residential neighborhood where the contaminated wells are located have a reliable, safe supply of drinking water. To that end, we are already providing bottled water, installing filtration systems and will soon break ground on a water main project. The cost of that project will be \$2 million.

Second, we are beginning the process of sampling and testing in order to develop a closure plan for the dump that will not only help protect groundwater but also deal with the soil, surface water and sediment contamination that exists on and around the site. We have hired TRC to assist us with the initial testing and preliminary design of this undertaking. While we do not yet know what approach will be recommended, we believe that remediation of this site will cost at least \$3 to \$4 million, based on the costs the City faced in closing another landfill a few years ago. Obviously, the difficulty of remediating groundwater especially makes cost estimating very difficult at this stage.

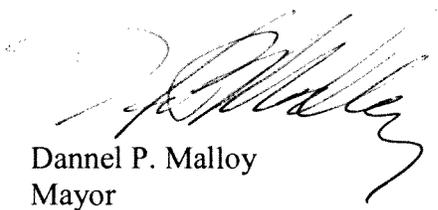
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Amey Marrella

As you may know, the Bonding bill passed by the General Assembly last week (HB 7004, Sec. 34) includes a set-aside of \$16 million to the DEP to pay for grants-in-aid for exactly these types of situations. It is the intention of the City of Stamford to apply for these funds, once the bill has been signed into law by the Governor. I hope that you will be able to direct us with respect to any application procedures or criteria that your department develops, and ultimately that you will look favorably upon our request.

I would also like to take the opportunity to point out that we have already received considerable assistance from Doug Zimmerman and Amanda Flad in your department on this matter. They have participated in public meetings, provided guidance, and arranged for filtration systems for homes with well contamination. Thank you for their efforts.

Thank you for your consideration, and please call on me if there is any more information that I can provide you at this time.

Sincerely,

  
Dannel P. Malloy  
Mayor

cc: Sen. Andrew McDonald  
Rep. Jim Shapiro  
Rep. Jerry Fox  
Rep. Carlo Leone  
Benjamin Barnes, Dir. of Operations  
Lou Casolo, City Engineer

Sen. L. Scott Frantz  
Rep. Patricia Billie Miller  
Rep. William Tong  
Rep. Livvy Floren