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Sea Girt
New Jersey
WHERE THE CEDARS MEET THE SEA

Don Fetzer, Mayor

September 23, 2024

Shawn LaTourette
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
104 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Subject: Coordination on White Swan Laundry Superfund Site and Pre-Build Infrastructure Project for Offshore Wind

Dear Commissioner La Tourette,

On September 17, 2024, I attended the EPA Superfund Update Meeting in Wall, New Jersey, led by Mazeeda Khan of the USEPA. Following the presentation and subsequent public comment period, four key concerns have arisen regarding the proposed Pre-Build Infrastructure Project to support offshore wind and its intersection with the White Swan Laundry and Cleaner Superfund Site:

1. **Risk of Trenching through the Superfund Site**

The proposed underground installation of high-voltage cables will pass through two Superfund sites, including areas still under active construction (see attached map). The risks associated with trenching through these areas, including potential exposure to hazardous materials, were not fully addressed during the meeting.

2. **Impact on Borough Infrastructure and Groundwater**

There is a significant concern about the risk of damaging our borough's underground infrastructure and further contaminating our groundwater. When we raised this issue with EPA representatives, the response was, "That's their problem since their work will follow ours." This lack of coordination is troubling, given the potential for long-term environmental and public health consequences.

3. **Lack of Interagency Coordination**

The EPA representatives appeared unaware of the proposed infrastructure project that will follow their cleanup work, despite acknowledging that these projects are likely to impact one another.

4. **Long-Term Impact on Cable Integrity**

We also have questions regarding the long-term impact of the high water table on the integrity of the cable and its coatings. Specifically, we are seeking information on any studies or data that the DEP has on wire durability and potential contamination risks in such conditions.

Given the significance of these concerns, we are seeking your assistance in ensuring that the USEPA, NJ DEP, and the Borough of Sea Girt are working collaboratively. It is crucial that all parties are aligned to prevent any adverse effects on our residents, natural resources, and local infrastructure.

We look forward to your guidance and support in facilitating this coordination.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Fetzer
Mayor
Borough of Sea Girt

A site map released previously by the federal Environmental Protection Agency of the White Swan/Sun Cleaners site. (Image provided by EPA)

