

OPINION

Don't expand recycling facility

The expansion of the Marpal Republic Services recycling facility in Tinton Falls should not be allowed for three reasons that are interconnected: planning, traffic and health.

No one denies that Marpal provides a needed service for the residents of Monmouth County by primarily recycling construction

waste. However, the three facilities that perform this function in Monmouth County, including Marpal, are located within a few miles of each other. This puts an unfair traffic and diesel truck pollution burden on the residents who live near or along routes to these facilities.

The Monmouth County freeholders and Planning Board must encourage Marpal to establish a second facility in another area rather than allowing an expansion of the Tinton Falls facility.

Traffic congestion is a problem in eastern Monmouth County, including the Route 520 corridor and the intersection of routes 35 and 36. Congestion persists around exits 109 and 105 of the Garden State Parkway. These areas

would be affected by increased truck traffic to Marpal.

Last but not least, the government is only beginning to acknowledge the detrimental health effects of diesel particulate pollution. The federal and state governments are working on regulations to require retrofitting of diesel engines and improving diesel fuel. Once this is done, diesel particulate pollution will be drastically reduced. However, this will take years to implement.

The county government must declare a moratorium on all expansion requests that would add to the number of diesel trucks on our roads until all trucks meet the new retrofitting requirements.

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