

Truck traffic cited by foes of waste station expansion

Posted by the [Asbury Park Press](#) on 07/14/06

BY [ANDREA ALEXANDER](#)  
FREEHOLD BUREAU

FREEHOLD — Steve O'Hara will not let his daughters walk to the Tinton Falls school down the street because he is afraid of the truck traffic in his neighborhood.

O'Hara, of Tinton Avenue, was one of more than a dozen residents who asked the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders Thursday night to reject the proposed expansion of the Marpal Disposal waste-transfer station in Tinton Falls, citing concerns about growing truck traffic.

"It is a risky proposition to get in and out of driveways," O'Hara told the board.

Republic Services of New Jersey applied to the county in 2004 for approval to expand its daily capacity at its Marpal Disposal facility on Wayside Road. The company wants to be able to accept 800 tons a day of bulk items ... such as furniture, lumber and construction materials. The current capacity is 450 tons a day.

Marpal is also seeking approval to extend its processing hours from 9 p.m. until midnight. Trucks, however, would not be permitted to use local roads after 9 p.m. Trucks would be also be restricted to Wayside Road and Route 18.

The freeholders delayed voting Thursday to consider public comments, but may act soon on the application.

"We will take a vote in short order," Freeholder Director William C. Barham said. "Possibly at the next meeting."

### **DEP permit also needed**

The waste transfer station sorts the bulk waste and trucks most of it to landfills, said Larry Zaayenga, the county's solid waste coordinator. Marpal withdrew its request to handle household garbage at the site soon after it sought approval from the county to expand, Zaayenga said.

Marpal's application to the county is only one step in the process for approval to expand its capacity, Zaayenga said. Approval from the freeholders would allow Marpal to apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for a permit.

"If they apply, there is a detailed and lengthy process," Zaayenga said. "It could take another year or more. If the board rejects the plan amendment, they would not be permitted to make application to the state to expand the facility."

"The expansion will bring a tremendous increase in truck noise, will decrease our property values and diminish our quality of life," said Walter Horan, of the Lincroft section of Middletown.

Barbara Thorpe said truck traffic has turned her Swimming River Road neighborhood in Middletown into the "Swimming River turnpike, the gateway to the dumps."

"The truck traffic threatens the life and limb and the safety of every adult or child," Thorpe said.

After listening to residents' comments during the public hearing, Rich Maio, the general manager for Marpal, said it appears there are two separate issues: "The expansion of Marpal and traffic on Swimming River Road."

If Marpal receives approval from the freeholders, the DEP will require extensive traffic, noise and environmental impact studies, Maio said.

Maio has said his company wants to expand operations because it occasionally has to close its doors to incoming waste haulers by 1 p.m. On busy days, as many as 20 trucks have to be turned away from the site and redirected to other facilities, according to a copy of the plan being considered by the county.

### **3,200 have signed petition**

The freeholders held their first public hearing on the expansion in March 2005. The board postponed a vote after listening to residents' concerns about truck traffic.

The freeholders asked the solid waste planning staff to review truck routes and the amount and sources of waste before officials act on the application, Zaayenga said. The county reviewed state records and developed a database to track truck traffic.

Solid waste planning staff members presented their findings to the board and the freeholders opted to hold another public hearing before taking action. The county has also received a petition with about 3,200 signatures from residents, mostly in Middletown and Tinton Falls, opposed to the expansion, Zaayenga said.

Marpal has a permit from the DEP as a bulk waste transfer station and material recovery facility, which means it can recycle metal, wood and cardboard, Zaayenga said. There is, however, only minimal recycling at the site, he said.

The county would like to encourage more recycling, Zaayenga said. But there are no clear guidelines or regulations from the state regarding recycling at such facilities, Zaayenga said.