



Town of Brookhaven

Proposed Regional Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility – Scoping Meeting

October 1, 2020



www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningforFuture



RTP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES, INC.®
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- Introductions
- Meeting Purpose
- The Town is currently exploring options that will allow for disposal of residues from waste-to-energy and recycling processes that are currently disposed of in the Town Landfill (known as Cell 6) which is anticipated to reach capacity in 2024.
- Tonight's meeting is the first of several public meetings which will explore one of these options – the proposed development of a regional repository to be located at the Town's Solid Waste Management Facility, which is a large complex that houses recycling, waste transfer and landfill operations.
- A project of this scope and magnitude will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).
 - Part 617 of Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations.

Tonight's Meeting



- This Public Scoping meeting is being held pursuant to the SEQRA, known as Article 8 of Environmental Conservation Law of New York State (NYS).
- Pursuant to NYS regulations, Objectives of Public Scoping:
 1. To focus the draft EIS on the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts;
 2. To eliminate non-significant and non-relevant issues;
 3. To identify the extent and quality of information needed;
 4. To identify the range of reasonable alternatives to be discussed;
 5. To provide an initial identification of mitigation measures; and
 6. To provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the identification of impacts
- 30-day written comment period: All written comments must be received no later than Monday, **November 2, 2020**.

Tonight's Scoping Meeting



- Brief presentation on the proposed project, SEQRA compliance, and Draft Scope topics
- Open for Public Comments
 - Please hold all comments to the end of the upcoming presentation.
 - Anyone interested in commenting on the proposal at the end of the presentation may communicate with the Town Board during that time via "chat" or the "Q&A" function.
- Zoom Meeting format
 - Please use the "Q&A" or "Chat" button to inform us if you would like to speak.
 - To virtually raise your hand, Click Raise Hand in the webinar controls (bottom strip of commands). The host will be notified that you've raised your hand. Click Lower Hand to lower it if needed.
- Each member of the public will have 3 minutes to speak.
- Early in the review & planning process – many answers to questions are not available yet
 - Supply the available information regarding the proposal and to allow for public input and participation as to the content of the environmental impact statement.
 - Not to discuss the merits of the proposed proposal.
 - Not to advocate for or against any specific decision.
- Questions brought up this evening will be reviewed and addressed in the Final Scope.
- Draft Scope available at:
 - www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
 - South Country Library
 - Brookhaven Free Library



- Process required by SEQRA to systematically consider environmental factors early in the planning stages of actions that are directly undertaken, funded, or approved by local, regional, and state agencies.
- Because the length of the SEQR compliance process and potential resulting final design, permitting & construction activities can exceed four (4) years, the Town has started this exploration in order to prepare for the scheduled 2024 landfill closure.
- Town of Brookhaven (Lead Agency)
 - Prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) with expanded Project Description
 - Identified aspects of the proposed action that may have significant adverse impacts and is available for download at www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
 - Issued a Positive Declaration, which requires a DEIS be prepared
 - Circulated a Draft Scope that outlines the topics to be studied in the DEIS; this meeting is part of the process that solicits public input
 - Will produce a Final Scope, which guides preparation of the DEIS

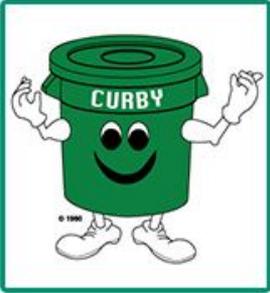


- Draft Scope - A written document (scope) that outlines the topics and analyses of potential environmental impacts of an action that will be addressed in a DEIS.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Primary source of environmental information to help involved agencies consider environmental concerns in making decisions about a proposed action.
 - Provides a basis for public and agency review of, and comment on, an action's potential environmental effects.
 - Examines the nature and extent of identified potential environmental impacts of an action, as well as steps that could be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
 - Describes and evaluates a range of reasonable alternatives to the action that are feasible, considering the objectives and capabilities of the project sponsor.



- The Proposed Regional Resource and Recycling Residuals Facility is a specialized, modern landfill that would be fully engineered in accordance with all Federal, State, and local regulations that protect the unique environment we have here in Brookhaven.
- The proposed facility would only accept Waste-to-Energy ash residuals (also called recovery residuals), recycling residuals, and governmentally-generated waste such as municipal street sweepings and navigational dredge materials, in accordance with NYSDEC operating requirements for Long Island Landfills. No construction debris will be accepted.
- The Town is undertaking a parallel effort to update the Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP), which will feature new ways to reduce & recycle, and offer additional opportunity for public input.

Where Does My Waste Go?



- Town Department of Recycling and Sustainable Materials Management (RSMM) provides comprehensive services to residents to help them recycle, re-use, reduce and dispose of household waste generated; a guide to these services can be found on their website <https://www.brookhavenny.gov/244/Recycling-Garbage-Collection>
- RSMM manages residential collection services, contracting with carters to bring trash (also called Municipal Solid Waste, or MSW) and recyclables to the Town's Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF).
- **No land burial of any residential materials collected curbside occurs at the Town SWMF.**
- Lots of small loads of household trash are deposited into a Waste Transfer Station (a building), so that the Town efficiently transport the MSW to Covanta Hempstead (a Waste-to-Energy [WTE] facility).
- Recyclables are sorted and processed at the Town's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and are then sold and transported to businesses who get them to companies who can process them into raw materials for re-use.
- The SWMF also contains residential drop-off areas, materials processing areas, and the existing landfill, which is scheduled to close in 2024.



What is Waste-to-Energy (WTE)?

- A [WTE facility](#) is a plant that converts MSW to energy, producing sustainable electricity
 - Generates less pollutants than plants powered by fossil fuels
 - Reduces reliance on MSW landfills, which generate greenhouse gases.
 - Extracts metals out of MSW, which are recycled
 - WTE Ash is a byproduct of the process – the WTE ash remaining after combustion is about one-tenth of original waste volume
- The Town's use of Waste-to-Energy is consistent with following principles codified in the [1988 NYS Solid Waste Management Act \(SWMA\)](#) & the [NYS Solid Waste Management Plan *Beyond Waste*](#):
 - 1) Reduce the amount of solid waste generated.
 - 2) Reuse material or recycle material that cannot be reused.
 - 3) Recover energy from solid waste that cannot be economically or technically reused or recycled.
 - 4) Dispose of solid waste that is not being reused or recycled, or from which energy is not being recovered, by land burial or other methods approved by the department
- All garbage, or municipal solid waste (MSW) generated on Long Island either goes to a WTE plant, or is landfilled off-Island

Proposed Project Site



Outlined in blue is the Town's existing Brookhaven Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF). The existing landfill is on the west and will be closed by 2024. The area in red on the eastern side of the SWMF is the proposed location of the new Regional Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility, which will not accept any garbage or construction debris.



The existing landfill occupies $270\pm$ acres of the $534\pm$ acre SWMF. All but $63\pm$ acres of the existing landfill have been capped & closed to date. The proposed $59\pm$ -acre facility will be separate and distinct, located on a $121\pm$ -acre site on the east side of the property.

What is the Regional RRRF?



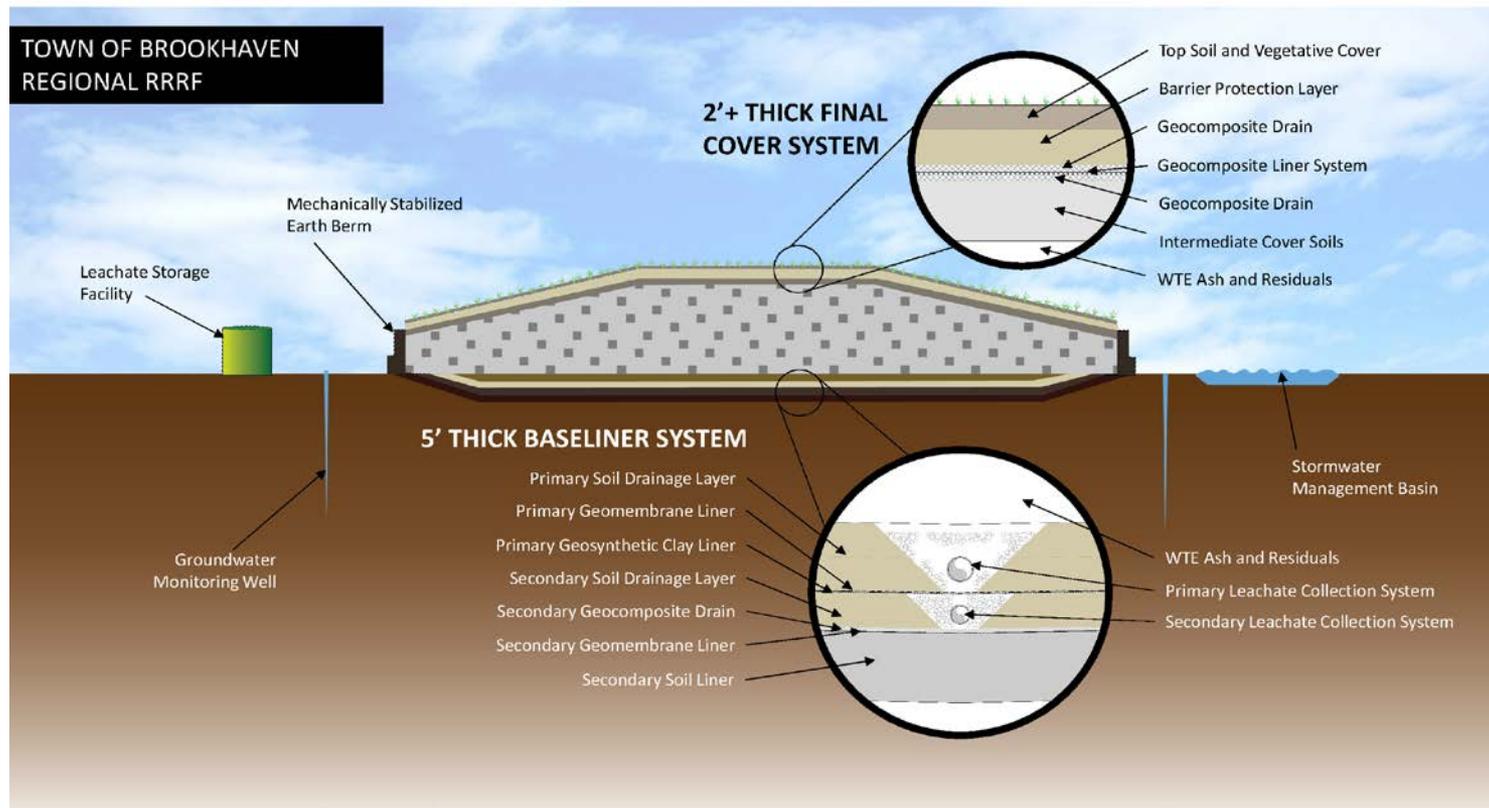
The project will be built on a 121-acre project site which will feature:

- Preservation of approximately 23± acres of forest, including retaining a minimum of 25' Buffer Zone of Natural Trees around the site
- A proposed waste footprint of 59± acres, 29± acres of which is currently cleared and utilized as a soils & yard waste processing area
- Utilization of existing site access from Horseblock Road (CR16)
- 15± acres of Stormwater ponds (i.e. green infrastructure) designed in accordance with the NYSDEC Design Manual
- A collection, storage and treatment system for “leachate”, ensuring any rainwater that comes in contact with waste is swiftly removed from the site and hauled to the Suffolk County Sewage Treatment Plant in West Babylon

How Will the Regional RRRF Work?



The [Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act](#) mandates that landfills be engineered to protect the environment from any contaminants that may be present in the waste stream. The diagram below shows generic components of the proposed facility, all of which will be evaluated within the DEIS.



RRRF Preliminary Design



Proposed Regional Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility



Why is the Regional RRRF proposed?

- Local ash disposal capacity will allow Brookhaven residents to continue to have a sustainable solid waste management system that recovers resources and generates renewable energy.
- Local recycling residual disposal capacity will support existing and future recycling initiatives, and ultimately lead to reductions in waste generation
- This is a shared services initiative to help make Long Island more affordable and environmentally sustainable, benefiting residents of Brookhaven, Islip, Hempstead, Huntington and Smithtown
- NYS awarded \$20 million to fund the Brookhaven United Plan which includes dedicated NY funding for a project to construct a regional facility to provide benefits for a sustainable solution to solid waste disposal.

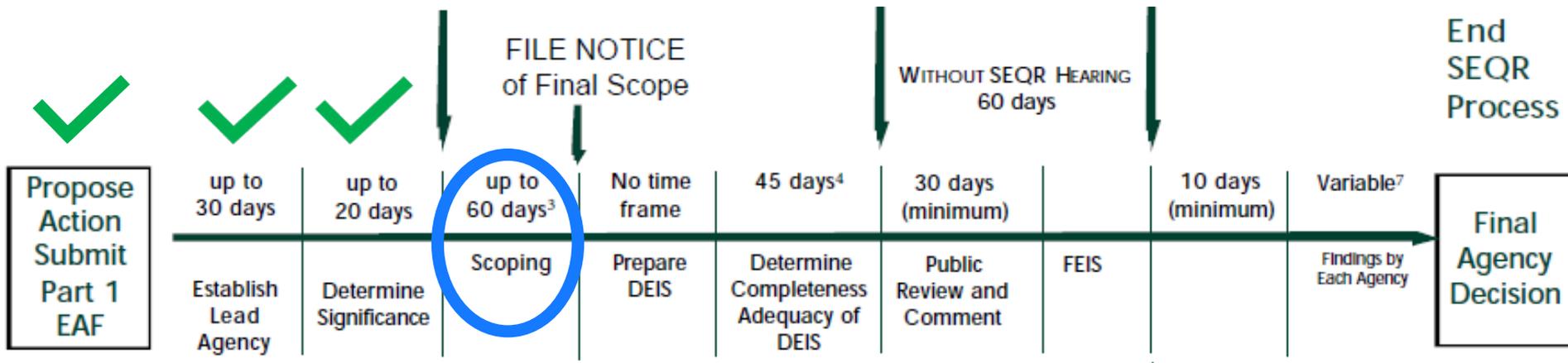
Approvals Required



The proposed Regional RRRF will undergo thorough environmental and safety review by a number of agencies, including but not limited to:

- **Federal Aviation Administration** - notification for proposed height, which will not exceed the current height of the existing landfill, but will be more than 200 feet above existing grade level
- **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)** – for compliance with Solid Waste Management Facility design and operational guidelines, for compliance with air quality standards, and for compliance with construction activity regulations that protect the environment during construction
- **Suffolk County (SC)** – review for roadway & traffic safety on Horseblock Road (County Road 16), administrative approval regarding the disposal & treatment of leachate at the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant in West Babylon, and Health Department review for temporary leachate storage on-site.
- **Town of Brookhaven** -review and approval of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), as well as full participation in the multi-agency SEQR process

Mandates that agencies act on the substantive information produced by the environmental review.



Draft Scope – Environmental Topics



- Subsurface Conditions, Soils & Topography
 - Geotechnical Information
 - Hydrogeologic Investigation Report
 - Earthwork
- Water Resources
 - Groundwater quality
 - Surface water quality
 - Wetlands
 - Drainage & stormwater
 - Leachate treatment & collection
 - *Carmans River Conservation Management Plan*
 - *Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Management Plan*
- Ecology
 - Flora & fauna inventory
 - Endangered, threatened, & special concern species
 - Northern long-eared bat
 - Eastern box turtle
 - Significant natural communities/habitats

Draft Scope – Environmental Topics



- Land Use & Community Character
 - Land use patterns, zoning
 - Relevant adopted plans
 - Community services
 - Potential environmental justice (EJ) area
- Traffic
 - Traffic Impact Study
 - Traffic conditions – local & regional
- Air Quality
 - Analyze potential for any emissions of pollutants
 - Consider sources such as traffic & operations
- Odor
 - Evaluate potential types of odors
 - Odor Control Plan
- Noise
 - Operational assessment (primary & secondary noise)



- Archaeology
 - Coordination with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
- Aesthetics
 - Visual character of surrounding area
 - From surrounding properties, roadways
- Solid Waste Management
 - History of Town solid waste management planning
 - Sustainability of the proposed action
 - Overview of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plants
 - *Sustainable Materials Management Strategy for New York State - Beyond Waste* & other relevant studies



- Reasonable alternatives for avoiding or reducing identified impacts may include:
 - Size
 - Sites
 - Design
 - Alternative technologies
 - Timing
 - Use
 - Relevant thresholds
- Alternatives must be feasible, considering the objectives and capabilities of the project sponsor.
- The range of alternatives must include the no action alternative.



- Proposed Action – Regional RRRF
- No Action
 - Results in large amounts of ash being landfilled off-Island (e.g., Ohio, Pennsylvania).
 - The added cost to the disposal fees could
 - Divert funds from Town programs that provide environmental and social benefits
 - Substantially increase property tax burden on residents and businesses
 - The added truck traffic could
 - Increase deterioration of aging infrastructure
 - Exacerbate traffic congestion
 - Increase air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
 - Long term increased reliance on MSW landfills off-Island

- October 1, 2020: Public Scoping Meeting
- November 2, 2020: Public Scoping Period Ends
- Mid-November 2020: Final Scope



Prepare DEIS

Public Input Opportunities



- Coordination with involved and interested agencies
- Scoping Period
 - October 1, 2020 Scoping Meeting
 - Draft Scope available:
 - www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
 - Local libraries
 - Comments accepted until **November 2, 2020**
 - Submit to www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
 - Mail to Peter E. Fountaine, Brookhaven Environmental Protection, One Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738
- Review of DEIS (Winter 2021*)
 - 30-day review period
- Public Hearing (Winter/Spring 2021*)

* Subject to change

For More Information



- Project materials are posted to the Town Website:
www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
- Advertisements of public input opportunities:
 - New York State Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB)
 - Town Website
 - Local Newspapers
 - South County Library, Brookhaven Free Library



Comments

Project Materials & Draft Scope available at www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture
Comments will be accepted until **November 2, 2020**
and can be submitted to the Town at www.BrookhavenNY.gov/PlanningfortheFuture