



# Save the Pine Bush, Inc.

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October 8, 2008

Angelo A. Marcuccio  
Environmental Analyst  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Permits, Region 4  
1130 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306-2014

RE: Proposed Landfill Expansion in the Pine Bush

Dear Mr. Marcuccio,

Save the Pine Bush respectfully asks the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to postpone the date of the public hearing for the proposed landfill expansion in Albany's rare and beautiful Pine Bush, considered to be one of the best remaining examples of an inland Pine Barrens ecosystem in the world.

The City of Albany has been working on this proposed expansion for more than three years. The City of Albany has paid consultants to prepare their thousands of pages for their application documents, and they have access to hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for expert scientists to help them. In contrast, concerned citizens are volunteers, with jobs and families, and limited time to review and analyze these important documents. Citizens should be given at least 90 days to read and review these lengthy, technical documents. Please re-schedule the hearing for January, 2009.

The City has not been forthcoming with its plans to its citizens. Despite being repeatedly asked by members of Save the Pine Bush to hold hearings on how best to deal with the City's solid waste issue, to involve the citizens of the City in helping solve this important issue, the City has turned a deaf ear to our requests, and has frozen us out of any substantive conversations on the issue of solid waste and the proposed landfill expansion. The City has held no hearings on the issue of solid waste during the entire three years of this process. The City has allowed citizens to attend a few "informational"

meetings, but, the City has certainly not been interested in anything the public has to say on the issue.

So, today, I learn that in less than 30 days, citizens will be able to comment on the City's application, which consists of thousands of pages of technical scientific documents. *Nearly 5000 pages of technical documents.*

This is an outrage. The City has had years to prepare these documents. To give citizens less than a month to review and analyze these highly technical documents is unjust to the people who care about the Pine Bush and solid waste issues and want to participate in finding solutions to these challenging issues.

In addition, the hearing is scheduled the day after the most important presidential election to be held in 80 years. Many people are extremely concerned about the state of our nation, and believe that the upcoming elections will determine the fate of America. The attention of concerned citizens is focused on electing a president who can get the US out of a devastating, unjust war and handle the current economic crisis.

It is shocking that DEC would schedule such an important hearing at such a critical time. Presidential elections only come once every four years. Surely, DEC can schedule the hearing to give citizens on a day that is not the day after the national election.

Please give the citizens a chance for real input! We have been asking the City for years to be involved. *This hearing is our one and only chance.* But, without DEC giving time for people to read the application, and scheduling the hearing when attention is focused on national issues, it certainly gives the citizens the impression that DEC does not want real, substantive, public participation in the SEQRA process.

Please, reschedule this hearing to January, 2009 to give citizens at least 90 days to read the nearly 5000 pages.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Lynne Jackson

Volunteer, Save the Pine Bush