



August 22, 2002

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES

By Facsimile and First Class Mail

On Thursday, August 22, 2002, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management initiated three actions related to the transfer station and wood processing facility operated by New England Ecological Development (NEED) on Green Hill Road in Johnston, RI.

The first action was a Summary Suspension of the existing license to operate that transfer station and wood processing facility. The terms of this suspension require that the facility immediately cease accepting waste and initiate closure at that site. This action was based on the operator's interference with our ability to regulate that facility, as provided in state law.

The second action issued was a Notice of Revocation of the existing license to operate that transfer station and wood processing facility. This is the permanent revocation of the existing license.

Finally, the Department issued a Notice of Intent to Deny the facility's pending application for renewal and expansion of the facility. This initiates a process outlined in the State Refuse Disposal Act to Deny that application.

Copies of all these actions will be available on DEM's web site in the near future for your review.

These actions are directly related to the transfer station and wood processing operations at the Johnston site and in no way impact the company's ability to conduct curbside pick-up, transport solid waste, or dispose of solid waste at other licensed solid waste management facilities, including the Central Landfill. It does prohibit the trans-shipment of waste through that transfer station. In summary, NEED can continue to direct haul solid waste from pick-up routes to the landfill and other licensed facilities.

If you have any questions on these actions or if they may impact curbside pick-up or transportation, please contact either the DEM Office of Legal Services at 222-6607 or the Office of Waste Management. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Assistant Director for Air, Waste, and Compliance