



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Region 1**

**5 Post Office Square, Suite 100**

**Boston, MA 02109-3912**

October 24, 2017

Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Senator Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Shaheen and Hassan,

Thank you for your letter of October 19 regarding the Addendum to the Fourth Five Year Review report for the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site in which you expressed your concern about the timing and manner the addendum was presented to the public. I share your view that EPA needs to engage with the public on all aspects of the Coakley Landfill site and share information completely and promptly. We believe we have been doing that for this site.

During the course of 2017, EPA staff attended over a dozen public meetings attended by residents, local and state officials, Congressional staff and members of the media. EPA, along with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, also prepared six community updates that were distributed through email. Much of EPA's focus in both the in-person and written updates was to provide the most current data and progress regarding the activities being conducted to address the recommendations in the 2016 Five Year Review. EPA also consistently made clear that this data would be documented in the 2017 Five Year Review Addendum. We take our commitment to transparency and timely public involvement very seriously, and will continue to provide new information and data that we obtain in the future to the Legislative Commission, Boards of Selectmen, and other interested citizens and organizations.

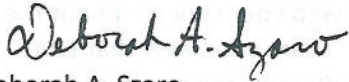
To continue to keep the public fully informed, EPA has scheduled a public information meeting on Thursday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bethany Church in Greenland. In addition to providing an update on recent activities at Coakley, my staff will provide a presentation on the Five Year Review Addendum to provide a better understanding of the document and its purpose and take questions and comments from the public. In addition, I have informed the House Clerk regarding the NH Legislative Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Investigation that Jim Murphy, who has been the participant on the Governor's Task Force, will serve as a resource on the Commission as a non-voting member and provide periodic updates on Coakley Landfill activities. EPA will be providing an overview of the site history and an update of recent activities including an explanation of the Five Year Review at the Commission's next meeting on November 8 in Concord.

EPA has a very positive message to share about the contents of the Addendum which I would like to directly communicate. To date, all data collected at the site indicate that the remedy

currently protects human health and the environment. This includes data collected on the drinking water, surface water and sediment pathways. However, the Five-Year Review Addendum also makes clear that EPA is not satisfied that we have answered every question that needs to be answered with respect to long-term protectiveness. We have identified new actions that must occur to provide necessary additional data. The actions include a deep bedrock investigation to address a gap in knowledge of the groundwater flow in bedrock; the performance of additional risk evaluations for the potential pathway of exposure to PFAS from the incidental consumption of surface water or sediments; and sampling of fish tissue along Berry's Brook to determine whether there are any human exposures to PFAS that can be attributed to the landfill.

I am in agreement with you and the community that there is still much work to do together to address the concerns about potential health and environmental risks in the Seacoast area, and EPA looks forward to continuing to present information in a timely and transparent manner. Thank you for your ongoing efforts on behalf of your constituents.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Szaro  
Acting Regional Administrator