

The Honorable Robert E. Andrews
First Congressional District of New Jersey
506A White Horse Pike
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035

Dear Congressman Andrews:

Thank you for your February 8, 2001 letter to Administrator Whitman regarding grant funding for Safety-Kleen's Bridgeport, New Jersey hazardous waste incinerator. As noted by the Logan Township in its letter to you, Safety-Kleen Corp. and several of its subsidiaries (Safety-Kleen) have filed Chapter 11 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is aware of the bankruptcy and is following it.

Recently, Safety-Kleen informed the public that the Bridgeport incinerator, as well as some other facilities, will cease to operate. While I understand the concerns of Logan Township and appreciate your desire to retain the operation of the Bridgeport incinerator, the EPA does not provide grants so that a hazardous waste management facility may be upgraded to meet regulatory requirements, including the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) rule.

In your letter you also mentioned funding for site remediation work. In a Consent Agreement and Final Order with EPA, Safety-Kleen agreed it will not seek to discharge claims for environmental clean up or response cost liabilities for its facilities. The Bridgeport incinerator facility is covered in the agreement. Thus, the EPA believes that the appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that remediation at the site will be completed and in accordance with the law.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. EPA will continue to monitor the Safety-Kleen matter in order to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 260-3527, or your staff may wish to contact Dale Ruhter of my staff at (703) 308-8192.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth
Director
Office of Solid Waste

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