REPORT

TO: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER
MAYOR JENSEN AND ASSEMBLY

FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KH

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - LANDFILL SLOPE STABILIZATION PROJECT

DATE: 9/26/2013

CC: KATHY O'REAR, BOROUGH CLERK

I am pleased to offer a report regarding changes to the Landfill Slope Stabilization project. As you know, the project was developed in order to accept and dispose of dredge spoils from the Corps of Engineers Maintenance Dredge project in the North Harbor. The project was designed to use the spoils in a beneficial way to cover the landfill metal pile, grade all slopes to ADEC standards and to support a rock work pad for scrap metal storage and other sanitation department operations.

The dredging project started on September 12th, and it was immediately evident that the material being delivered to the landfill was different than what the sanitation department was expecting. Alterations to the project plan for acceptance of the fluid material were enacted with small dykes being constructed with on-site materials for the holding of the spoils and continuation of the dewatering process. The retained material did solidify slightly over time and allowed the contractor to bail out the areas and place the material on the metal pile slopes. While this action did buy us some time, the production rate of the dredging operation soon forced the consideration of a more comprehensive containment system.

Through PND Engineers, the project designer, a Request for Proposals was issued to Rock N Road Construction for the construction of a containment berm at the outer fill limits of our project permit area. The RFP was issued for the loading and hauling of Borough owned shot rock to accomplish the build. As this RFP was reactionary to the daily quantities and character of the spoils, the Borough sought a cost to cover equipment and labor costs of the Contractor with an initial quantity of rock estimated for the containment berms of 5,000 cubic yards. A substantial quantity of oversized rock that has been culled from the Borough's shot rock quarry embankment was to be utilized first before the Contractor began to access the embankment rock. This is actually a very beneficial use of this material as it is unusable for most other road building or maintenance purposes.

A proposal was offered by the Contractor and it was shared with the Manager. Although the total cost of the change was unknown due to the uncertainty of the rock needed, it was determined that the estimated cost would exceed the Manager's spending authority. Waiting until the September 27th Assembly meeting or requesting a Special Meeting to secure approval from the Assembly would have put the dredging and landfill projects in danger of shutting down. This urgent need to build the berm resulted in the Manager's email dissemination of the problem, solution and approximate cost to Assembly members, with his intention to sign off on the change in order to keep the Landfill project moving and therefore also the North Harbor Dredging project.

It is important to note that the Manager was very concerned about the impacts to project budget, but I was able to reassure him that the amount of project contingency funds available would cover the cost of this change. The final change and its amount will be documented in the final Change Order and payment to the Contractor.

At this point, the Contractor has built a substantial amount of containment berm at the landfill. The entire berm is not yet completed, although the portions that have been built are currently retaining the spoils and not allowing any of the material to contaminate wetlands or drainages below the landfill. The Contractor has been able to utilize the oversize rock in the Borough's quarry to great effect and it is estimated that approximately 4,000 cubic yards of this unusable material has been placed so far. In looking forward, the total quantity of rock required for the complete containment of all dredge spoils has not been determined. The total quantity will definitely eclipse the 5,000 cubic yard initial estimate and could be double this amount or more. Although this work is an added and unanticipated expense to the Landfill project, the important and overriding goal of this effort is to contain all of the dredge spoils from the harbor so that the dredging won't be stopped and the North Harbor is constructed per the Contract timeline. At this point in time, this goal appears to be achievable and will not take the landfill project over budget.

This week saw the visit of a Corps of Engineers (COE) contingent who came to Petersburg to check on the progress of their dredging project. I took this opportunity to further impress upon them that the Borough had not anticipated the type of material that was being delivered to the landfill and that if material continued to be fluid and production rates of the dredge operation increased, the Borough's Contractor would not be able to keep up with containment of the material. A visit to the landfill emphasized the efforts being taken to handle the dredge material. This contact lead to a couple of meetings with several entities in the room, including the COE, the dredging Contractor and sub-contractor, PND Engineers and the Harbormaster. Items of discussion included the nature of the material being delivered, possible ways to provide additional dewatering of the material prior to trucking, COE assistance for additional costs being incurred at the landfill and overall project schedules of the dredge work, landfill work and North Harbor work. Although no concrete changes to the dredging contract have been worked out and no monetary pledges made to offer some relief to the Borough, there are some possible remedies or solutions that may be proposed to the COE for their consideration.

The COE staff responsible for the project have been helpful and I will continue to work through every possible avenue to seek assistance for the additional expenses incurred on the Landfill project as a result of the spoils containment effort.

Questions?