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CRRA Resolution Regarding Ash Landfill Initiative

The CRRA Board of Directors adopted the following resolution at its meeting of August 27, 2009:

RESOLUTION REGARDING ASH LANDFILL

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is charged with the provision of solid waste management and disposal services for the benefit of the people and municipalities of the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, as a necessary component of its obligation to provide such services, CRRA is given the responsibility and authority necessary to develop, own and operate ash landfills required for the disposal of the residual ash from the operation of its resource recovery facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Hartford Landfill, the last publicly owned and operated ash landfill in Connecticut, served for many years as the depository for ash from CRRA operations, until, in the interests of environmental justice, CRRA closed it in December 2008; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of its statutory mission to provide publicly-owned disposal options, CRRA reviewed and analyzed every potential site in Connecticut, including those identified by the DEP as potential ash residue disposal sites, and ultimately determined property in Franklin abutting the Shetucket River (one of the sites identified by DEP) to be the most suitable site meeting DEP criteria for the development of a new ash landfill; and

WHEREAS, for the past 18 months, CRRA and its environmental consultants and engineers have conducted numerous studies and compiled extensive data on the Franklin site, all confirming its suitability for use as an ash landfill; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature last spring passed a bill which, had it become law, would have prohibited the Authority from acquiring land in Franklin on which to site and develop a new ash landfill, and the Governor subsequently issued a statement in opposition to the development of the Franklin site – the best available site in Connecticut meeting DEP criteria for use as an ash landfill; and

WHEREAS, CRRA construes such votes and statements by State leaders rejecting the determined site to strongly urge CRRA to desist from the development of new ash landfills in Connecticut and pursue other environmentally sound alternative means of ash disposal, despite the fact that, without publicly-owned competition, such alternatives will be substantially more expensive;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED: That, based on its understanding of the directives received from State leaders, CRRA will suspend its efforts to develop an ash landfill in the State of Connecticut indefinitely; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That CRRA will immediately focus on consideration of other environmentally sound options for long-term disposal of ash residue from its resource recovery facilities, including disposal at other in-state and out-of-state landfills and other options that the CRRA finds beneficial.