

## It's Not Even Our Trash



Photo taken from resident's driveway

Modern is a Sanitary Landfill, designed to take Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). As you may know, all of Lower Windsor Township's (LWT) MSW goes to the Waste-To-Energy plant North of York. Every bit of it. 100%. The MSW in Modern Landfill comes from places far away from LWT.

Modern also takes in some Residual Waste, meaning waste from industry. Since there is little industry in LWT, a very tiny fraction of 1% of the waste that ends up in Modern landfill is residual waste from LWT.

4% of waste dumped into Modern is Construction & Demolition trash from York County. If this is in proportion to population, 0.07% of the waste is due to C&D from LWT. Bricks, drywall, siding, concrete blocks, etc. don't belong in a sanitary landfill anyway. They should go to dedicated C&D landfills, like the Lancaster Landfill in Elizabethtown.

So, in a nutshell, Lower Windsor Township doesn't need Modern Landfill.

"It's Not Even Our Trash" makes a great sound bite, but there's a practical side to it as well. The property that is intended for Modern Landfill's "Eastern Expansion" is zoned Agriculture because that is what is consistent with the LWT Comprehensive Plan. Solid Waste facilities are only permitted by LWT's zoning ordinance in Industrial zones. Republic will depend on the Board of Supervisors to amend (change) the zoning ordinance or the zoning map (the zoning board cannot do this.) If the township wants to support the expansion, that is what will happen. However, courts have ruled that a municipality is not required to change its planning or zoning to accommodate a use of the land if "it has adequately provided for such use in light of demonstratable demand in the community." Simply stated, if the township doesn't need the service, it doesn't have to provide for it.

Republic wants the extra capacity of the "Eastern Expansion" for trash from New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey, you-name-it. LWT doesn't need it.

If the township elects to protect the health and welfare of its residents, preserve prime farmland and the sanctity of the air, water and land, it has the tools and opportunity to do so. If it elects to enrich the shareholders of Republic Services in exchange for a tiny portion of the revenue Republic reaps from tipping fees, it merely has to follow the lead that Republic has given it. Which will it be?