



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**Via Electronic Mail**

May 10, 2021

Steve Joseph  
Manager/CEO  
Southside Recycling  
11600 South Burley Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60617

**Subject: Update on Status of Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application**

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Please be advised that on Friday, May 7, 2021, Mayor Lightfoot received the attached letter from U. S. Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") Administrator Michael Regan regarding Reserve Management Group's ("RMG") permit application to operate a large recycling facility at 11600 S. Burley Avenue on the southeast side of Chicago that is currently pending before the Chicago Department of Public Health ("CDPH"). In the letter, Administrator Regan made the following recommendation:

Prior to reaching a decision on the permit, U.S. EPA suggests that the City complete an environmental justice analysis, such as a Health Impact Assessment, to meaningfully consider the aggregate potential health effects of the proposed RMG facility on the southeast area of Chicago. This would include consideration of not only a robust analysis of ambient air quality data from Chicago's southeast side, compared with other parts of the city, but also potential impacts from other pathways of exposure. Such an analysis would help to illustrate the direct link between the environmental burdens in this community and the health of residents. U.S. EPA is prepared to offer our assistance in this effort. Our Region 5 Office has already initiated an analysis of ambient air quality data and a comparison of that data with similar data from other Chicago communities. We believe it is prudent for the City to delay a decision on the pending permit until such an analysis can be conducted. A thorough, transparent, and properly scoped assessment would provide the public and all parties with assurance that the City is taking serious account of environmental justice concerns in its deliberations.

Upon receipt of the letter, legal counsel for the City contacted RMG's counsel David Chizewer and advised him of the U.S. EPA recommendation and further notified counsel that as a direct result, the City would be suspending its review of RMG's permit. Please allow this letter to serve as my official notification that the City will be complying with U.S. EPA's recommendation and has therefore suspended its review of RMG's permit application until the recommended analysis can be undertaken. In the coming weeks, CDPH will be developing a project plan in coordination with U.S. EPA and a timeline for that undertaking. As soon as a schedule is known, we will promptly notify you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Arwady, MD". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Allison Arwady  
Commissioner

attachment: May 7, 2021 USEPA letter