ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 37

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.
District 7 (Burlington)
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)
Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Verrelli and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS
Opposes construction of hazardous waste incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.
AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION opposing the construction of a hazardous waste incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Elcon Recycling Services is an industrial waste treatment service provider based in Israel which processes hazardous waste produced by chemical, pharmaceutical, and other companies; and

WHEREAS, Elcon Recycling Services is applying a second time to build a hazardous waste incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania to process hazardous industrial, medical, and other waste; and

WHEREAS, Falls Township, Pennsylvania is located just across the Delaware River from many New Jersey municipalities, including our state capital of Trenton City, Hamilton Township, Bordentown Township, and other nearby communities in Mercer and Burlington counties; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Elcon Recycling Services only has facilities operating in Israel where its Haifa Bay facility has recently been ordered to shut down and relocate due to its history of violations of air and groundwater emissions standards and its negative impact and pollution to the surrounding environment in Haifa Bay; and

WHEREAS, Elcon Recycling Services has been denied authorization to build facilities in Italy due to environmental issues created by its treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection denied Elcon’s request to construct a facility in the Keystone Industrial Port Complex in Falls Township, Pennsylvania because the business failed to demonstrate compliance with flood-hazard regulations; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Delaware River serves as a primary source of drinking water and a popular recreational destination for millions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, A hazardous waste treatment facility would likely degrade and pollute the surrounding area and waterways which will be detrimental to residents, the environment, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Pennsylvania League of Woman Voters, the facility would process hazardous and medical waste including the treatment of 210,000 tons of raw waste per year that would include high levels of mercury, cadmium, and lead; and

WHEREAS, According to local environmentalists, the incineration treatment process would likely produce over 39 tons of air emissions containing, among other pollutants, nitrous oxide, ammonia, hydrochloric acid, volatile organic compounds, sulfur oxide, and total particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, In July 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced that Elcon has submitted all necessary application materials to the department commencing a 10-month review period for the facility; and
WHEREAS, In July 2016, the Mercer County Board of Chosen
Freeholders adopted a resolution opposing the construction of
Elcon’s proposal for a hazardous waste incinerator facility in Falls
Township, Pennsylvania; and
WHEREAS, Due to the high probability of pollution from both
permitted and accidental discharges that would affect the air quality
in the region and the water quality of the Delaware River, the
Delaware Bay, the Chesapeake Bay, and other bodies of water, this
House opposes the construction a toxic waste incinerator in Falls
Township, Pennsylvania; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New
Jersey:

1. This House opposes the construction of a toxic waste
incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania due to the high
probability of pollution from both permitted and accidental
discharges that would affect air quality in the region and the water
quality of the Delaware River, the Delaware Bay, the Chesapeake
Bay, and other bodies of water.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection, each member of the Falls Township
Board of Supervisors, and the Clerk of the Board of Chosen
Freeholders in each county in New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This bill would oppose the construction of a hazardous waste
incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania by Elcon Recycling
Services. Elcon Recycling Services is an industrial waste treatment
service provider based in Israel which processes hazardous waste
produced by chemical, pharmaceutical, and other companies.
Currently, Elcon Recycling Services only has facilities operating in
Israel where its Haifa Bay facility has recently been ordered to shut
down and relocate due to its history of violations of air and
groundwater emissions standards and its negative impact and
pollution to the surrounding environment in Haifa Bay.

Elcon Recycling Services has been denied authorization to build
facilities in Italy due to environmental issues created by its
treatment facilities. In 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection denied Elcon’s request to construct a
facility in the Keystone Industrial Port Complex in Falls Township,
Pennsylvania because the business failed to demonstrate
compliance with flood-hazard regulations.

Elcon Recycling Services is applying a second time to build a
hazardous waste incinerator in Falls Township to process hazardous
industrial, medical, and other waste. In July, 2018, the
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced
that Elcon has submitted all necessary application materials to the
department commencing a 10-month review period for the facility.
Falls Township is extremely close to the Delaware River and is a
part of a densely populated residential region. In addition, the
Delaware River serves as a primary source of drinking water and a
popular recreational destination for millions of New Jersey and
Pennsylvania residents and visitors.

A hazardous waste treatment facility would likely degrade and
pollute the surrounding area and waterways which will be
detrimental to residents, the environment, and wildlife. According
to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Pennsylvania League of
Woman Voters the facility would process hazardous and medical
waste including the treatment of 210,000 tons of raw waste per year
that would include high levels of mercury, cadmium, and lead.
According to local environmentalists, the incineration treatment
process would likely produce over 39 tons of air emissions
containing, among other pollutants, nitrous oxide, ammonia,
hydrochloric acid, volatile organic compounds, sulfur oxide, and
total particulate matter.

Due to the high probability of pollution from both permitted and
accidental discharges that would affect the air quality in the region
and the water quality of the Delaware River, the Chesapeake Bay,
and other bodies of water, this House opposes the construction a
toxic waste incinerator in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.