

## Office of the Governor

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Whitman to New York's Garbage Plan: Drop Dead**

New York City's plan to ship an estimated 3.6 million tons of raw garbage across the Arthur Kill to proposed sites in Carteret, Newark and to other states, is a non-starter as far as New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman is concerned. The Governor said she will do all in her power to block any proposed garbage transfer plan that would threaten New Jersey's beaches, environment or our quality of life.

"The proposal being promoted by the City of New York is a direct assault on the beaches of New Jersey and a very real threat to our quality of life, especially to the residents of Hudson, Union, Essex and Middlesex Counties," she said.

"I will do everything I can to assure that no permits are granted for facilities that would in any way pose threats to New Jersey's beaches, would contribute to air or water pollution or would diminish the quality of life in New Jersey," Gov. Whitman said.

The sites in Middlesex and Essex Counties would require amendments to the solid waste plans for both counties, which must also be approved by the County Boards of Freeholders and ultimately by the state. Should the counties amend their plans the proposed transfer stations would also require individual permits from the state. All of these processes require public hearings and the input from members of the affected communities.

"Quality of life issues are as important in New Jersey as they are in New York and I would be surprised if our counties amend their solid waste plans to include barge transfers of New York's garbage. Moving millions of tons of garbage from the land to barges and back on to the land could be an environmental disaster waiting to happen," she said.

The very preliminary details New Jersey has received about New York City's plans indicate that they propose to ship by barge 5,000 tons per day of trash to yet-to-be-permitted locations in Carteret and Newark. The garbage would then be unloaded from barges to transfer stations where it would then be trucked to the garbage incinerator in Newark or taken by rail to out-of-state facilities. In addition, the City is proposing to ship 5,000 tons per day of garbage from sites throughout New York City down the Arthur Kill and along the Jersey shore to locations in the southern United States.