

Board ends medical waste treatment project

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Officially bringing the proposed medical waste treatment facility to be built in the County Industrial Park to an end, the George County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to cancel the May 24 public meeting seeking changes to the County Solid Waste Plan. The move was prompted by an email from Southern Environmental Services, LLC.

In the email to the Board, Michael Janus with Southern Environmental Services, LLC said “I wish to inform the George County Board of Supervisors of our decision to withdraw from our project in George County. We truly believe this project has merit and would have been a successful endeavor for all: providing jobs and helping to grow George County.

“However, it is apparent that due to assumptions, misinformation and an apparent lack of consensus by the Board we believe it is prudent to withdraw and move on. We appreciate all that you have done to promote your company and accommodate us while we were developing our site.”

SES was proposing to collect 20 tons of medical waste daily from within a 250-mile radius with a fleet of specialized trucks. The medical waste is put into special sealed containers at the source. It would then have been transported to the proposed George County facility and treated through a high temperature gasification process, reducing its volume by 90 percent, and transforming it into a sterilized carbon rich white fluff.

Medical waste is any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of humans. Examples include paper towels, wipes, gloves used in procedures, syringes without needles, bandages, or dressings with small amounts of blood or fluids, catheters other material from medical care. Medical waste does not include aborted or miscarried fetuses, which are disposed of in an entirely different manner.