

RESOLUTION NO. 450 -2013, LIMITING THE USE OF AIR CURTAIN DESTRUCTORS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is responsible for the removal and disposal of vegetative waste, such as fallen trees and branches, that is found on County property; and

WHEREAS, following extraordinary weather events, the County must dispose of huge amounts of vegetative waste, as was seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the recent blizzard; and

WHEREAS, when the County has large amounts of vegetative waste to dispose of, the Department of Public Works ("DPW") will use air curtain destructors to increase their efficiency; and

WHEREAS, air curtain destructors are large containers that burn vegetative waste quickly, while simultaneously ventilating the box with a layer of air over the fire to reduce the amount of smoke particulates entering the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the use of multiple air curtain destructors in the same location can cause air quality problems; and

WHEREAS, DPW should use air curtain destructors only during periods of emergency and, even then, operate no more than one unit at a time at a single location; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works shall not use air curtain destructors for the regular disposal of vegetative waste in the County of Suffolk; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that DPW may use air curtain destructors during a state of emergency declared by the Governor of New York State or the County Executive, but shall be limited to using only one unit per site, with sites being located at least 5 miles from one another; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the use of air curtain destructors by DPW shall continue for no more than ninety days following the declaration of a state of emergency; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that DPW shall conduct air quality monitoring for particulate emissions at any site where an air curtain destructor is being used and in the surrounding areas throughout the length of the destructor's use, including the gathering of data from the immediate areas to the north, south, east and west of the destructor; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that DPW shall release the results of air quality monitoring for sites where air curtain destructors are used every thirty days during the destructor's use to the Clerk of the Legislature, who shall make said results available to the public, with a final report thirty days after the operation is ended; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that DPW shall cease operation of any air curtain destructor being operated if the air quality monitoring data shows that air emissions are exceeding applicable public health standards; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 4, 2013

EFFECTIVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-15(F) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER,
RETURNED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE UNSIGNED JUNE 20, 2013