

Industrial Reuse Boosts New Jersey's Recycling Rate

By Terri Smith

On April 25, 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued its first Class C Recycling Center permit to allow for the recycling of food waste to Converted Organics of Woodbridge, LLC (Converted Organics). This permit will allow construction to begin on the first-of-its-kind food waste recycling facility in the United States.

Converted Organics will build and operate a 500-ton-per-day food waste recycling facility that will produce a high-quality, all-natural soil amendment. In addition, the facility will generate local jobs, extend the life of landfills through the diversion of food

waste, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to note that all operations conducted by Converted Organics will be conducted indoors.

The facility, located on a 26-acre former brownfield site along the Raritan River in Woodbridge, N.J., will help the state attain its 50 percent recycling rate and reduce the amount of food waste headed for state landfills.

The property and buildings have a manufacturing history that goes back to 1894.

The site includes 27 interconnected two-story buildings and several detached buildings that were constructed between 1894 and 1991.

Approximately half the site is occupied by former Carborundum Company manufacturing buildings that are being retrofitted and reconstructed for reuse.

Carborundum, which occupied the site for nearly 75 years, manufactured chemical and temperature-resistant industrial refractories. Raw materials used in these processes included silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, clays and resins.

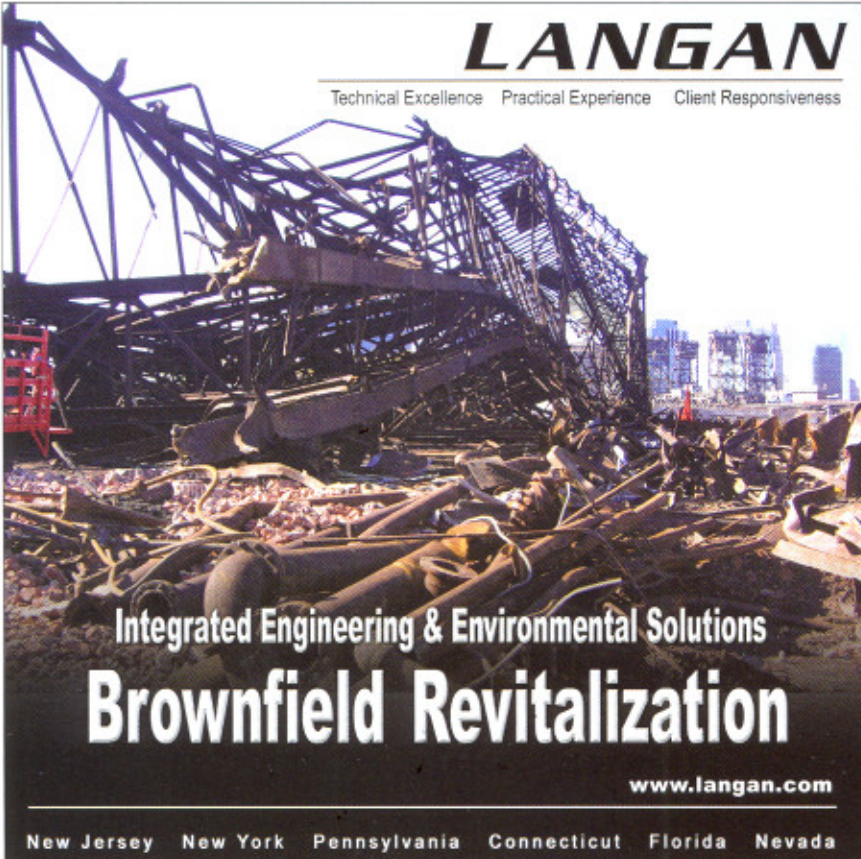
The sale of the Carborundum property in 1995 triggered the environmental investigation and remediation obligations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA).

The prior owner/operator of the property, BP (formerly the Standard Oil Company), is conducting clean-up activities. The property has subsequently undergone various soil and groundwater remedial activities, some of which are ongoing. The completion of all remedial and environmental related activities will culminate in the NJDEP issuing a site-wide no further action/covenant not to sue letter.

In addition to the Converted Organics facility, the current reuse of this brownfield property includes many other recycling activities, including the operation of a NJDEP-permitted Class B recycling facility and a Construction and Demolition Debris Transfer Station/Materials Recovery Facility.

NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson has referred to the property as a "recycling mega mall." **BFN**

Terri Smith is a redevelopment coordinator with Environmental Liability Management, Inc., of Princeton, N.J.



LANGAN
Technical Excellence Practical Experience Client Responsiveness

Integrated Engineering & Environmental Solutions
Brownfield Revitalization

www.langan.com

New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Connecticut Florida Nevada