

■ Waste Industry's Top Execs Lead Buyout Attempt

RALEIGH, NC | Solid waste service company Waste Industries (WI) has received a \$518.5 million buyout offer. The group of investors includes members of WI's management team, Goldman Sachs and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners. The group already owns 51 percent of the company and offered \$36.75 in cash for every remaining share – whereupon the WI stock jumped \$7.41, or 26 percent, to \$35.88. The investor group is led by Waste Industries Chief Executive Jim Perry and its founder and Chairman Lonnie Poole. Poole and Perry said in a statement that they will oppose any other proposal to acquire the company. The company would remain headquartered in Raleigh following the completion of any deal. The company's Board of Directors has appointed a special committee to consider the offer and will be advised by JP Morgan. □

■ Sims Group to Operate Waste Transfer Stations in New York

NEW YORK | Sims Group has entered into negotiations with the city of New York to operate the Marine Transfer Station (MTS) at West 59th Street in Manhattan, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced. In an open competition, Sims Group submitted the best proposal to transfer Manhattan's waste and recyclables via this facility. The company wants to use the MTS to transfer recyclable paper alongside construction and demolition debris for the period until the MTS on Manhattan's Gansevoort Peninsula is reactivated, at which time the West 59th Street facility will be used solely for construction and demolition debris. At the moment, Manhattan's capacity to handle its commercial waste is limited, so it has to be transported by truck to transfer stations and processing plants in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Bloomberg said that the two sites are the right choice to process Manhattan's recyclables and commercial waste. "The proposal we have selected for West 59th Street meets the sustainability requirements that are in the Solid Waste Management Plan and that the construction industry is increasingly demanding," he added. □

■ Supreme Court Criticises Delhi for Lack of Waste Import Controls

NEW DELHI | Indian officials have stated their dissatisfaction about waste imports from Western countries. After reports of bio-medical waste from the US appearing in Kerala surfaced, Union Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss stated: "India cannot be a dumping ground for junk and waste. It is a very serious issue. If true, we will take it to the highest level." Moreover, according to the *Times of India*, there are at least 209 containers of waste oil laying in various ports with no trace of the importers.

Shocked by the state of affairs, the Supreme Court took an adverse view of the absence of guidelines to deal with such situations and asked the central government to draft a comprehensive policy in four weeks. The court suggested collection of an advance from all importers so that in the event of a consignment found to be waste oil or hazardous waste dumped from the West, the government could use the advance to destroy the imported waste in a safe way.

The court criticised the government for doing nothing to stop misuse of its policy under which an importer gives his licence to agents for the actual import. "In the end, when an unwanted consignment lands ashore, there is no one to own up to it – the importer and its agents just vanish," it said. □

■ India Took Back Scrap Import Rules, Says Trader

NEW DELHI / WARSAW | India has withdrawn the new registration obligations for scrap imports, said Ikbal Nathani of the Indian trading firm Nathani Group at the BIR conference in Warsaw. According to Nathani, the government realised the impracticality of the rules, which stipulated that imports of unshredded scrap were only permitted from suppliers who had been registered by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). "This means you can freely export scrap to India," Nathani told the assembled industry representatives. The regulations had been introduced to safeguard workers dealing with metal recycling in India, underlining that the country would not accept second-rate material. □