

IWS not looking to sell, it's seeking landfill investors

By RICK MILLER
OLEAN TIMES HERALD

FARMERSVILLE — Integrated Waste Systems (IWS) Inc. is not seeking to sell the proposed Farmersville landfill site but is looking for investors to complete its application to the state to build a landfill, an IWS official said Monday.

Last week a representative from Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County disclosed that an attorney from Allied Waste Co., the country's second-largest waste management

firm, had met with landfill opponents after Allied was approached by IWS about the possibility of taking over the project.

Integrated Waste Services President William Heitzenrater on Monday denied IWS was for sale. "IWS is looking for funding and possible investors," he said. "IWS has not withdrawn its

application. IWS intends to pursue the Farmersville site" for municipal waste.

"Have I spoken to Allied? Yes, along with about 20 other groups," Mr. Heitzenrater said. "They (Allied) are

no closer to having a deal with me than anyone else."

James P. Zeumer, a spokesman for the Phoenix, Ariz.-based Allied Waste Co., returned a call seeking comment, saying, "As the second-biggest waste services company in the country, we get our name thrown around a lot of different stuff. As a matter of corporate practice, we don't comment on speculation, rumors of deals or transactions or anything like that."

Mr. Heitzenrater and three other individuals, whom he did not identify, own 52 percent of IWS.

A fifth partner owns 48 percent of

IWS. This individual is seeking to sell his shares.

Oone of the original partners, Richard Schnell, has died.

In addition, Southern Tier Waste Services (STWS), of which Mr. Heitzenrater is also president, "is looking for investors and partners to complete the job. Allied is only one of many groups, investors and potential partners."

The landfill was first proposed in 1990 as a 3,000-ton-a-day site for municipal wastes. Since then, there

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have been several public hearings where local municipalities such as the city of Olean and Cattaraugus County have fought the proposal alongside the Concerned Citizens group.

The Farmersville Town Board also has expressed concern over last Friday's article in the Olean Times Herald where Concerned Citizens attorney Gary Abraham of Allegany disclosed a meeting with an Allied representative about taking over the IWS project.

The town of Farmersville has a contract with IWS which prohibits another company from developing a landfill in the town.

"I am ruling out a com-

plete sale," Mr. Heitzenrater declared. "Integrated will be part of any landfill in the town of Farmersville. They (IWS) will be the applicant. My goal is to be part of the permitting process and be there to cut the ribbon when the first load of waste comes in."

If it were sold before the state grants the necessary permits to construct the landfill, the new company would have to start from square one.

Mr. Heitzenrater said IWS has spent more than \$15 million trying to get the landfill located in Farmersville.

He said the permitting process was slowed by a lawsuit filed by opponents who

challenged the proposed landfill's conceptual review which gave preliminary approval to the site off Route 98.

"The next phase is securing funds to complete the permitting process," Mr. Heitzenrater said. "I'm confident that once we have a permit (to operate) in hand, we will secure operating funding."

IWS must answer a series of questions that arose during the last round of state Department of Environmental Conservation hearings on how it plans to mitigate damage to a nearby protected trout stream, and overcome wetlands issues at the site of the proposed 133-acre landfill.