

(2/8/2019) DUNMORE — The Lackawanna County Solid Waste Management Authority voted last week to authorize Lackawanna Recycling Center Inc., to alert municipalities that it will begin monitoring each load of recyclables before and after they are dumped there. Starting about April 1, the operator may begin rejecting municipal loads and those dropped off by private haulers if it deems them contaminated with trash or materials that cannot be recycled, officials said.

The recycling center uses a dual-stream process. Newsprint, corrugated cardboard and magazines make up one stream, while certain glass, plastic, aluminum and tin cans and containers make up the other. While many private haulers serving municipalities accept single-stream recycling, which allows materials to be mixed together, municipalities and haulers using the facility must keep the two streams separate.

Authority solicitor Thomas Cummings said at the meeting that loads coming into the facility are often contaminated with nonrecyclable materials and, in some cases, garbage. The operator also reserves the right to reject deliveries in which the two recycling streams are mixed together.

Municipal options

In those cases, municipalities will be responsible for disposing of the contaminated loads. They may also decontaminate the loads and bring them back to the center. If the contaminated recyclables already have been

dumped, the municipality will be charged a disposal fee, according to the letter.

Authority officials described the next two months as a “courtesy period” allowing municipalities to remind residents what can and cannot be recycled.

Not all items can be recycled, and those that can should be clear of debris and rinsed of any food waste.