



# Montana Solid Waste News



Winter 2012

## WELCOME TO THE SOLID WASTE NEWS!

It's been more than a year since the DEQ Solid Waste Program has issued a program newsletter. We know that you've missed it! ☺

In the past, paper copies have been mailed to licensed facilities, and to others associated with the Solid Waste Industry in Montana. However, the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) asked that an electronic version be developed – so here it is! A Solid Waste e-mail list has been created, hopefully there are no omissions. But if there are, others may add their e-mail address to the list at DEQ's Email [Subscription List](#). After submitting name and Email address, check the "Solid Waste Program Newsletter" box and "Submit Query."

We anticipate that this will be a quarterly e-publication. The **Montana Solid Waste News** will focus on issues that pertain, or may be of interest, to Montana's Solid Waste Facilities. Please forward items/articles that should be shared with other Solid Waste operators in Montana.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Welcome to the Solid Waste News</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Solid Waste Program Staff</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Revised Renewal Packet</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Upcoming Training</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>News about Pat Crowley</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Rick's Corner</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Septic Tank Pumper Certification</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Updated Post-Closure Plans</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Largest Metals &amp; Electronics Recycler Cited</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Question from a Solid Waste Facility</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Solid Waste Industry News</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Vector Bird Control</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Taking Care of Landfill Leachate</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Felony to Assault Trash Worker</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Lengthening a Landfill's Lifespan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Glass Crushing Saves County \$\$</b> .....	<b>6</b>

### Solid Waste Program Staff

Rick Thompson, Section Supervisor,  
444-5345

Mary Louise Hendrickson, Technical  
Lead, 444-1808

Bruce Meyer, Junk Vehicle Program  
Manager, 444-2835

Tim Stepp, Environmental Engineer,  
444-4725

Mitzi Hansen, Data Control  
Specialist, 444-3493

Martin Van Oort, SW Inspector  
specializing in groundwater and  
methane monitoring, 444-2802

Kathy O'Hern, SW Inspector  
specializing in recycling and  
composting, 444-9879

Bob McWilliams, SW Inspector  
specializing in the Septic Pumper  
Program, 444-1434



Address:

Lee Metcalf Building

1520 East Sixth Ave.

PO Box 200901

Main Line 444-5300

<http://deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste>

## REVISED RENEWAL PACKET

It's that time again – annual renewals! The 2012 renewal packet, which you should have received by now, includes shorter, streamlined, and newly designed reporting forms. Hopefully these forms will be quicker and easier to complete. The licensing group is proposing to use the previous long form only every five years to capture updated facility information. Feel free to send feedback.

The Waste Diversion and Recycling Form follows recently adopted reporting guidelines developed by an EPA Region 8 working group with representation from Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Montana, and the Dakotas. The information will help quantify the amount of specific commodities collected in the region; the information may be then be used to eventually attract manufacturers for the recycled materials to the region. It's important to complete this form as accurately as possible; in particular where the diverted materials were shipped for recycling in order to avoid double-counting.

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

### HAZWOPER 8-hour Refresher

*February 15, 2012*

This course will be taught by Tony Olson, Safety & Health Services, in Helena. Through the METNET, the course will also be broadcast in Billings, Virginia City, Sidney, Glasgow, Havre, and Kalispell.

### Site Health, Safety and Waste Screening

*March 27-28, 2012*

Popular instructor Neal Bolton will teach this two-day course at the Holiday Inn Great Falls. The course will include classroom material, and on-site instruction at the High Plains Landfill just north of Great Falls. More information is available on the Solid Waste website.

On-line Registration can be accessed on the [SWP Training](#) page.

### Beginning to Advanced Composting

*June 19-21, 2012*

We are lucky to have Jean Bonhotal travel to Helena to teach this course. Jean is the Director of the Cornell Waste Management Institute's Department of Crop and Soil Science. She is an expert on compost – from food to manure to animal carcasses. Two days will be customized to Montana's climate and challenges, animal carcass composting, and implementing new compost programs in the State. On the third day of the compost training the public will be invited to attend, and Jean will shift gears to community and backyard composting.

### Hazardous Waste/E-waste Collections

*September 12, 2012*

This course will be taught in Bozeman in conjunction with the Economy, Energy and Environment Conference. Details will be announced as plans develop.

Additional information about these, and other, trainings is located on the [SWP Training](#) page.

## NEWS ABOUT PAT CROWLEY

Former Solid Waste Program employee Pat Crowley has been hospitalized with a serious illness.

If you'd like to wish Pat and his family well, cards may be mailed to:

Benefits Health System East  
F. Patrick Crowley  
Room 4105  
1101 26<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Great Falls, MT 59405



## RICK'S CORNER

SOLID WASTE SECTION NEWS  
*WHAT'S NEW?*

Happy New Year! Since the publication of the last Solid Waste Section news letter, there have been a couple of personnel changes in the Solid Waste Program (Program). Joining the staff are Kathy O'Hern and Bob McWilliams. They replaced Joe Blaine and Renai Hill who left the program for other employment and retirement respectively. Kathy and Bob both came to the Program from the solid waste community. Kathy came from the West Yellowstone Transfer Station and Compost Facility via the DEQ Planning Division where she was a recycling specialist for a year, and Bob from the Beaverhead County Landfill which he managed for 22 years. We are very fortunate to have Kathy and Bob on staff as they bring a combined 44 years of hands on solid waste experience and knowledge to the SWP. Both Kathy and Bob will be working primarily on the regulatory side of the SWP and will be conducting inspections at your facilities as one of their primary duties. So look out for them and wish them well in their new endeavors.

I now turn my attention to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The SWAC was formed just over 10 years ago and is comprised of members representing various types of solid waste management systems across the state. As stated in the mission statement, the SWAC was formed to enhance communication and the working relationship between the Department and solid waste management facility owners/operators, through discussion of, and the exchange of ideas. Over the years the SWAC has provided significant input into how the Department's goes about the

business of regulating solid wastes. For example, the SWAC has assisted in the Department in the revision of the Solid Waste Fee Rules, the general Solid Waste Rules and is currently providing preliminary input on the Financial Assurance Rule revision. Meetings are held quarterly in Helena and information on upcoming meetings can be found on the Solid Waste Program webpage at: <http://deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/swadvisory/advisorycom.mcp>.

The SWAC, like all other organizations, experiences turnovers, and is in need of folks to fill several vacancies. The areas in need of representation are, Small Western and Small Eastern Class II Landfills. If you are interested in serving please contact me for more details.

Last but not least in my update is operator training. If you have been wondering what has happened to the MACo/DEQ – MSU Extension training courses, please don't panic. For the remainder of the current fiscal year, the training courses will be put on by the Department. You can expect to have the same high level training courses as was provided in prior years, and course credits will be submitted to SWANA for CEU's necessary to maintain your MOLO certification. Information on upcoming training events can be found on the Solid Waste Web page at: [SWP Training](#)

That is all I have for now, and if you have any questions please contact me.

---

## SEPTIC TANK PUMPER CERTIFICATION

On April 27 & 28, 2012, a National Association of Wastewater Transporters (NAWT) Certification Program will be offered in Helena, along with a Septic Pumper Tradeshow. The training will be provided by NAWT certified instructors. Successful completion of this 2-day training program will result a two-year National Inspector Certification issued by NAWT, and listing on the NAWT National Registry.

For additional information see <http://www.deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/pumpers.mcp>.



## UPDATED POST-CLOSURE PLANS

Tim Stepp

The new Solid Waste rules became effective on February 12, 2010, and they included many changes to the various requirements for most landfill facility plans, including the typical Post-Closure Plan (PCP) as described below. Some of the more significant rule changes were the additional requirements for maintaining and reporting on the post closure care of all Class II and IV landfill systems [ARM 17.50.1404(8)]. On the other hand, simple criteria for the post-closure care of all Class III landfills were established for the first time [ARM 17.50.1405(2)]. The post-closure period for any landfill unit is initiated only after the MDEQ provides written approval of the final closure construction.

Addressing the simple Class III situation first, every PCP for any Class III landfill unit must now provide adequate procedures for maintaining: (i) the integrity of the final cover; (ii) a sufficient stand of vegetative cover including topsoil viability; and (iii) an effective program of erosion control. Each facility must also submit the required "notice of intent to close" when the closure plan will be reviewed prior to the initiation of any final closure activities. The necessary update of all Class-III PCP documents to meet these new requirements was due for all licensed facilities with Class III units no later than April 13, 2010.

In contrast, the post-closure care for any Class II or IV landfill unit involves the integration of multiple procedures to maintain all landfill systems and

operate the leachate collection, removal, and storage system at the facility. Some Class II units may additionally require operation of leachate treatment, methane control, or corrective action systems, depending on the site conditions. The frequency of systems monitoring and maintenance activities depends on the type of system and design alternatives selected. Department review and approval is required for the design and construction of any features during the post closure period. The PCP must be updated within 60 days to reflect any on-site changes that develop at any time. New post-closure requirements for the annual inspection and reporting on the "state of all landfill systems" depend on an update to the PCP identifying the critical parameters that indicate normal or faulty performance of each system. This specific performance-based approach allows for the upkeep, modification, or phasing out of each landfill system as stabilization of the landfill waste is achieved.

These notable changes in Class II and Class IV landfill post-closure care rules assist a facility in identifying and acquiring critical data on landfill systems performance during the operational and post-closure phases. Evaluation of the parameters involved provides by design an effective and unbiased means for the eventual cessation of post-closure care based on site-specific performance of the landfill systems. Please call Tim Stepp in the Solid Waste Program at 406-444-4725 for guidance on meeting these goals.

---

## LARGEST METALS & ELECTRONICS RECYCLER CITED

Sims Metal Management, located at the Port of Redwood City, CA, is home to one of the largest metal shredders in the San Francisco Bay Area. Last month the EPA ordered Sims Metal to comply with federal Clean Water Act laws following inspections that found evidence of unlawful discharges of PCBs, mercury, lead, copper and zinc into the SF Bay via Redwood Creek.

Sims is required to submit a revised storm water pollution prevention plan, and to update monitoring and sampling within 30 days of the order. In addition they are to develop and implement storm water pollution counter measures. Within 90 days Sims must submit a plan to eliminate all discharges to Redwood Creek within one year.

To view the enforcement order, documents and photos for the inspection, see <http://www.epa.gov/region9/mediacenter/sims-metal/>



**QUESTION FROM A SOLID WASTE FACILITY**

**Question:** *What is DEQ's role in the design of and/or modification of a solid waste facility? Will DEQ personnel review plans? Could someone from DEQ actually come to the site to offer advice?*

**Answer:** The Solid Waste Program (SWP) mainly reviews how any proposed design conforms to the performance requirements for each solid waste system. Depending on the type of operation, reviews may at least include liner, leachate collection and removal, methane control, storm water and erosion control, final cover, monitoring, and seismic stability.

In that context SWP staff may meet with licensees and/or their consultants to comment during planning, preliminary design, and final review. Assistance has included travelling to meet with folks at the facility to discuss design or modification requirements for specific issues.

In all discussions we do not, however, get involved with decisions on how to design a particular element to meet the requirements. We instead evaluate how any given proposal meets the applicable criteria based on the Solid Waste laws and rules. Our guidance is both written and verbal.

Submit your question to [kohern@mt.gov](mailto:kohern@mt.gov)

## SOLID WASTE INDUSTRY NEWS

**VECTOR BIRD CONTROL**

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Robop; a robotic peregrine falcon designed to deter vector birds. Robop is one of many strategies in use to deter birds at solid waste sites. This bionic falcon, at intervals, flaps its wings, cocks its head, shifts on its legs, and issues a shrill screech. Those of us who have dealt with vector birds are now thinking, "Right, this won't outsmart those ravens/seagulls for long." And that's probably right – but the bionic falcon could be one part of a larger bird deterrent program.

A bird deterrent program usually needs to employ more than one strategy to outsmart those pesky, and destructive, birds. For buildings it's best to actually barricade birds from roosting by using doors, netting or spikes. However when it comes to landfills and equipment, additional strategies must be employed. The products on the market are numerous: electronic sound systems, sound-making devices, flight diverters, and sometimes even live trained predator birds are used. The best strategy is to use a variety of measures so that those smart birds don't become habituated to one system.



Sometimes it's simply necessary to reduce the bird population at the site. If that's the case, it may be necessary to apply for a [Federal Migratory Bird Depredation Permit](#). Give it some time; the approval process is *not* a quick one.

**TAKING CARE OF LANDFILL LEACHATE**

*Michael Fickes, May 1, 2011*

Leachate can be handled with a range of techniques. Which one is right for your facility? If you haven't read it yet, the following links to an interesting article published on Waste360.com.

[http://waste360.com/bioreactors/taking-care-landfill-leachate?cid=nl\\_wire&YM\\_MID=1282478&YM\\_RID=kohern@mt.gov](http://waste360.com/bioreactors/taking-care-landfill-leachate?cid=nl_wire&YM_MID=1282478&YM_RID=kohern@mt.gov)



LEACHATE COLLECTION POND

**BILL WOULD MAKE IT A FELONY TO ASSAULT A TRASH WORKER**

*Jeremy Carroll, February 2, 2012*

A New York Assemblyman, who is a former sanitation worker, is sponsoring a bill that would make it a felony to assault sanitation workers in the state, the Epoch Times in New York reported. In the past two years, at least 17 assault cases involving sanitation workers in NYC were filed.



Assemblyman Micheal DenDekker, who worked in the industry for about five years, is introducing the bill and a companion bill will be introduced in the Senate, the newspaper reported.

It is a felony to assault a police officer, firefighter, nurse, school safety attendants and Metropolitan Transit Authority employees. An assault on a sanitation worker, however, is a misdemeanor.

Read the complete article here:

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/united-states/assault-on-sanitation-workers-could-be-felony-185683.html>

---

**LENGTHENING A LANDFILL'S LIFESPAN**

*Jerry L. McGraner and Tom Flannagan, Waste Age  
Mar. 1, 2011*

This is a great, and very informative, article about techniques that landfill operators use to maximize the life span of their sites.

[http://waste360.com/Landfill\\_Management/maximize-landfill-lifespan-201103](http://waste360.com/Landfill_Management/maximize-landfill-lifespan-201103)

---

**GLASS CRUSHING SAVES THE COUNTY \$\$\$**

*Source: Crossville Chronicle, Tenn.  
Publication date: February 1, 2012*

After the purchase of a glass crushing and recycling machine, Cumberland County, Tennessee has an opportunity to save the taxpayers thousands of dollars and benefit the environment. Several months ago the county purchased an Andela Pulverizer for the Solid Waste Department. The County estimates that it will take less than a year for the machine to pay for itself in savings. Read more:

<http://pwmag.com/industry-news.asp?sectionID=760&articleID=1809621>

---

**A life spent making mistakes is more useful than a life spent doing nothing.**

*~ Unknown*

**NEWSLETTER CONTACT**

Send your questions or submissions  
for upcoming issues to:

Kathy O'Hern  
[koern@mt.gov](mailto:koern@mt.gov)  
406-444-9879