

Montana Solid Waste News



FALL 2014 ISSUE



THE WINDS OF CHANGE

By Kathy O'Hern

Change is in the air; fall is fading into early winter and the holidays will be here soon—yikes, not ready for that! Things in life continually change—it's inevitable—regardless of if we are ready for it or not. Our children grow and begin their own lives, we age, our health and interests change.

And the solid waste industry changes too.

Take recycling, for example. During WWII recycling was popular because people understood the importance of collecting metals, rubber, etc. to support the war effort. But this outlook changed after the war when the economy improved, coupled with the onset of disposables. Another change came during the 1980s when recycling again became popular because of environmental issues.

And look at the change in landfills – subtitle D forced many local “dumps” to close. The large regional- and mega-landfill concept developed in response. Lined and monitored landfills are expensive, so landfill operations and equipment changed to achieve maximum compaction. Landfill methane gas collection changed from simply being burned off to, more and more, being diverted for energy production.

Trash collection mechanisms have changed too. The old state-of-the-art collection vehicle was a rear-loader with a guy riding on the back. He would jump off to manually empty household trash bins, then hop back on. Next came the automated side dumps and front loaders. What next?

Yes, things change. This is my last issue of the Solid Waste News, as a change in my life means a move to another state before the end of the year. I've enjoyed getting to know those of you working in the solid waste industry in Montana. Continue to be safe and do good work. Oh yes, and keep composting!

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RICK'S CORNER,

By Rick Thompson, Solid Waste Section Supervisor



As the summer field season winds down, there are several changes in the works for the Solid Waste Section that I feel compelled share.

The first major change impacting the Solid Waste Program (SWP) is the eminent departure of Kathy O'Hern. Kathy will be relocating to The Dalles, Oregon to be near family. Her last day will be November 28. We will miss Kathy's positive, can do attitude (bossy), and the wealth of solid waste knowledge that she brought to the SWP. Kathy has expressed that she will dearly miss working you folks, so when you have a moment, please give her a call, send her an email, or leave her a voicemail message. She will enjoy hearing from you before she departs.

Other changes in the works include the functional and structural reorganization of the Solid Waste Section—see article by Ed Thamke on Pg. 6. Also, see article by Gordy Higgins on Pg. 5 about the completion of solid waste rules for landfarms, compost, financial assurance, and oil field exploration and production wastes.

That is all I have for now, however if you need to contact me on any of the above issues or other solid waste concerns I can be contacted by telephone at: 406-444-5345, or by email at: rithompson@mt.gov.



SOLID ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) VACANCIES

If interested in serving as a representative for Montana "Small Eastern Class II Landfills" or "Small Western Class II Landfills" contact Rick Thompson, 406-444-5345. The commitment is to attend quarterly meetings in Helena.

SWAC Mission Statement: To enhance communication and the working relationship between the Department and solid waste management facility owners/operators, through the discussion of issues and the exchange of ideas.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SAFETY TRAINING DVD LOAN PROGRAM

The Solid Waste Program has a SAFETY TRAINING DVD Library for licensed facilities. These DVD's were developed by Blue Ridge Services. To borrow any of the DVDs for your safety meetings, call 406-444-5300 or e-mail wutbcomments@mt.gov. The DVD(s) will be mailed to you along with a return envelope. The DVDs are loaned out for two weeks at a time.

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|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| LF-05 | Working in Dusty Conditions | LF-55 | Leachate Management & Handling |
| LF-06 | Traffic Safety/Road Design | LF-70 | Landfill Odors: Safety Issues |
| LF-13 | Working in Extreme Weather - Hot | TS-01 | The Basics of Transfer Station Safety |
| LF-14 | Preventing Landfill Fires | TS-03 | Equipment Safety - General Issues |
| LF-21 | Extreme Conditions - Cold/Rain/Wet | TS-06 | Bloodborne Pathogens |
| LF-41 | Methane Gas Safety | TS-28 | Dealing With Unruly Customers |
| LF-47 | Slope Stability - Excavation Slopes | | |

To borrow a DVD, contact Janet Handy – jhandy@mt.gov or 406-444-3463

NEWS FROM THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 9, 2014, 1:30-3:00pm DEQ Metcalf Building, Room 111

Some highlights from the Fall SWAC meeting:

Bonnie Rouse from the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program announced that P2 was taking over the **Uncommon Sense** program. The program was managed by the Yellowstone Business Partnership; however they have disbanded. The **Smart Schools** program has received 15 applications for recycling projects. Bonnie introduced **Bill Patterson**, an AmeriCorps member working with the P2 Program, specifically with Smart Schools.

Liz Ulrich from Air Resources talked about the Climate Action Plan. Liz reported that the existing Emission Guidelines for MSW Landfills (1996) are being reviewed. She suggested that interested parties monitor www.regulations.gov.

Gordy Higgins, DEQ Rule Expert & Coordinator, reviewed the new landfarm rules. (see Pg. 5 for more on new rules)

Kathy O’Hern, DEQ Solid Waste Program, discussed upcoming trainings. A training titled, “Planning for the Future of Your Solid Waste Facility” will be held in Lewistown October 21-23, 2014. The Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) course will be offered in Kalispell in May 2015. A compost workshop will be held during spring 2015.

Sherrel Rhys, Lewis & Clark County Landfill Manager, talked about a MSW analysis that Neal Bolton from Blue Ridge Services is doing for the County and the City of Helena. Neal has examined the waste stream in the region and made recommendations about combining efforts and streamlining both operations.

Rick Thompson, DEQ Solid Waste Program Section Supervisor, reviewed the applications for solid waste licenses currently being reviewed by program staff.

Kathy O’Hern, reported the 145 solid waste facilities are inspected annually. This calendar year 119 inspections have been completed resulting in 7 major violations and 14 minor violations issued. Kathy also asked that all facilities complete the “Who Accepts What Waste” survey that was sent to all licensed facilities via Survey Monkey.

Shasta Steinweden, from DEQ Enforcement distributed a spreadsheet (*included on Pg. 4*) that shows the number of solid waste complaints received by enforcement. Check your county’s complaints!

Mark Nelson, Lake County Solid Waste District, gave a presentation about the fire in the Class III landfill in Polson. The fire ended up taking a huge effort and lots of money to put out.

Jim Simon, Gallatin County Solid Waste District, said that they put an RFP out for recycling services at the 18 sites in the county. Only one response was received.

Candace Bell, Jefferson County Solid Waste District, reported that Jefferson County also distributed an RFP for the 3 recycling sites in the county and received 2 responses.

Max Bauer, Republic Services Missoula, entertained the group with the story of 37,000 pounds of spoiled chicken that was brought to the landfill, and the media spectacle it created. A semi-trailer had been abandoned at a local rest area, and the load of frozen chicken spoiled.

Matt Elsaesser, Recycle Montana, said the Recycle Montana is now managing the “Don’t Waste Montana” program. He also introduced Rob Pudner, an Energy Corps member who is serving with Recycle Montana.

Next SWAC meeting—January 8, 2015 from 1:30 –3:00, in Helena—DEQ Metcalf Room 111

Check the DEQ Solid Waste Program website for training updates: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/training.mcp>
For more information about trainings contact Mary Louise Hendrickson at mhendrickson@mt.gov or 406-444-1808.

From Shasta Steinweden, DEQ Enforcement:

Number of Complaints Received about SW Issues

	2012	2013	2014	Total
Total Complaints	74	85	49	208
MONTANA COUNTY				
Beaverhead	1	2		3
Blaine		1		1
Broadwater	1	3	1	5
Carbon		4	2	6
Cascade	7	2	3	12
Choteau		2		2
Custer			2	2
Daniels	1	1	1	3
Dawson		2		2
Deer Lodge	1			1
Fergus	4	1	1	6
Flathead	2	6	2	10
Gallatin	7	12	3	22
Garfield			1	1
Golden Valley		1		1
Hill	2			2
Jefferson		2		2
Judith Basin	1		2	3
Lake	2			2
Lewis and Clark	7	5	1	13
Lincoln	2	2		4
Madison		2		2
Mineral		1		1
Missoula	3	2	2	7
Musselshell			1	1
Park	2		2	4
Pondera		1	1	2
Powder River		1		1
Powell			1	1
Ravalli	5	8	13	26
Richland	3		1	4
Roosevelt	3	9		12
Rosebud	3			3
Sanders	2	1	1	4
Sheridan	4		1	5
Silver Bow	3	3		6
Teton		2		2
Wheatland		1		1
Wibaux		1		1
Yellowstone	8	7	7	22

According to the DEQ Enforcement Division, most complaints have to do with:

- Neighbor disputes
- Backyard trash
- Metal salvaging

Most complaints are about private property, not licensed facilities.



Typical Complainers

WHO ACCEPTS WHAT WASTE

We are still waiting on a few Survey Monkey responses for the “Who Accepts What Waste” spreadsheet. Posting the requested information for your facility on our website will **SAVE YOU PHONE CALLS!** The spreadsheet is used by residents in your area to determine *exactly* what they can/cannot bring in.

If you haven’t responded to the Survey Monkey, expect a phone call from Fred Collins in the next few weeks. If you need another survey sent to you phone Fred at 406-444-0538.

“I personally believe we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.” Jane Wagner, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*

SOLID WASTE RULE UPDATE

The Solid Waste Program is drafting new rules. For those of you who aren't aware—the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) describes the official rulemaking process and sets specific timelines for notification, hearings, and public comment. DEQ also encourages stakeholder development and feedback before the rules are finalized. Typically, a DEQ rulemaking effort includes:

- Project identification
- Internal rule request approval
- Drafting and legal review
- Requesting stakeholder feedback
- Official submission to the Secretary of State for public notice.

The Secretary of State's website, located at www.sos.mt.gov/ARM/index.asp, offers detailed information about MAPA and the rulemaking process in general.

The Solid Waste program has worked hard to draft rule changes using a similar look and style, paying particular attention to:

- Coordinating existing solid waste management rules with new proposals to ensure definitions and other operational requirements are consistent and complementary.
- Customizing rule sections depending on the type of solid waste management facility or activity.
- Setting a regulatory framework according to potential impact to human health and the environment.
- Consistent and equitable application of requirements.

Rules that have been drafted or nearing completion include:

- **Infectious Waste Rules**—addresses the transport, storage, treatment and disposal of infectious waste.
- **Oil & Gas Exploration and Production (E&P) Rules**—licenses landfills and resource recovery facilities managing E&P wastes for the protection of the environment.
- **Soil Treatment Facility Rules**—clarifying landfarms, one-time landfarms, and exempt landfarms; develop ground and surface water protection; setbacks; record keeping; closure; etc.
- **Composting Rules**—define large, small, animal mortality, agricultural, and exempt compost; expand composting in Montana by allowing food waste composting; manage leachate, run-off, odors etc.
- **Financial Assurance (FA) Rules**—expands financial assurance mechanisms, clarify how the program prepares FA, and provides a basis for different solid waste management facilities to develop appropriate cost calculations.

A new **Interested Persons Database** is being developed so those who want to be informed and make comments/suggestions, about the rules may do so. The database project includes:

- Electronic notification
- Website updates with links
- Cleaning up prior "interested person" lists

For more information about these rules, or the Interested Persons Database, contact:

Gordy Higgins
406.444.4194
ghiggins@mt.gov

ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL OF DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORTS



What is NetDMR?

NetDMR is a free web-based tool for regulated permittees to submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) electronically via a secure Internet application. Any Montana facility that is required to submit DMRs is eligible to file their DMRs electronically through NetDMR. NetDMR is part of the e-reporting rule. Mandatory participation will be required at a future date.

What can NetDMR do for you?

- Reduce paper burden and associated postage costs.
- Verifies DMR data entry by automatically checking for certain violations prior to submission.
- Improves timeliness and accessibility of DMR data.
- Provides instant confirmation of submission.
- Allows for the attachment of approved supporting docu-

ments (e.g., Metal, WET testlab reporting and other correspondence).

NetDMR Training

Training for NetDMR is required as a web-based training session. Training provides permittees and data providers with an overview of the NetDMR account creation and data entry processes. Once completed, a facility must submit the appropriate paperwork to Montana DEQ, for approval to begin on-line submission of DMRs and other permit related reports.

To register for the next upcoming training, send an email to: NetDMR@epa.gov or Check EPA's training website for additional information and training resources at: www.epa.gov/netdmr/about/training.html

For More Information
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NetDMR
Website: <http://www.epa.gov/netdmr/>

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Ed Thamke

The Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau (WUTMB) will soon be improving by the addition of two recycling program staff formerly housed in the agency's Planning Division. Sandra Boggs and Dusti Johnson will join the Solid Waste Section in 2015 to "cross-pollinate" work plans and lay the foundation for a materials management work unit at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). I'm excited about the fresh perspectives that this restructuring will provide and the opportunity to enhance our materials management services to all Montanans. It is our hope that by synergizing materials management within DEQ, we may help synergize the many good regulatory and recycling efforts currently underway in Montana. I am always interested in our stakeholder's opinions and input, so please don't hesitate to contact me as need be.

—Ed Thamke, Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau Chief, ethamke@mt.gov, 406-444-6748.

NEW LANDFILL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS COMING

The EPA has proposed updates to its air standards for new municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills and is providing advance notice of proposed rulemaking for its air standards for existing MSW landfills. The proposed updates would require certain landfills to capture additional landfill gas, which would reduce emissions of methane. The EPA is seeking public feedback on how and whether to update emission guidelines for existing MSW landfills.

For more information visit EPA's website - www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/landfill/landflpg.html. You may also contact Eric Merchant with the DEQ's Air Resources Management Bureau at 406-444-1457 or by email at emerchant@mt.gov.

THE SCOOP ON E-WASTE

By Kolbi Fox



Did you know that the typical lifespan of a TV these days is 6-7 years? And a computer or laptop can become obsolete within a few years. Everyone seems to be getting new cell phones every year or two. With technology changing and growing at an astronomical rate, it is very important to make sure obsolete, unwanted electronics get recycled in the proper manner. Unfortunately, of the millions of pounds of e-waste generated, less than half is recycled. Most of it gets thrown away; the rest gets stored away in a basement, garage, or warehouse.



There are two main reasons to recycle e-waste: first, parts & pieces can be reused. If these materials are too old or broken to be reused the components can be recycled into new things (i.e. plastics, glass, metals.) The second reason is to keep toxic substances out of our landfills. Electronics contain many toxins, including lead, mercury, cadmium, barium, lithium, and arsenic. If broken, and exposed to the elements, these substances can leach into our groundwater.

The way in which e-waste is handled and stored is important. The components must be kept whole and stored indoors, if possible. If e-waste is outdoors, it needs to be covered and protected. CRT-type TV's and monitors can easily leach lead into the groundwater if leaded glass is exposed. The newer flat screen monitors and TVs contain mercury. Batteries are another item to keep an eye on. Everyone has containers or bags of batteries sitting around if they haven't tossed them in the trash. Batteries contain acid, lead, lithium, alkaline, and mercury. A good rule of thumb is to always wear gloves when handling batteries, especially if they are swollen or leaking.



Take extra caution when handling old switches & thermostats and fluorescent lamps that contain mercury. If a glass tube of mercury is broken, the heavy metal can seep into the ground or get on your skin. Mercury is one of the most toxic metals used in electronic applications.

For those wanting to know more about electronics recycling, contact your local or state e-waste recycling companies. (such as Yellowstone E-Waste Solutions in Billings!)

NEW RECYCLING COLLECTION FACILITY LICENSE APPLICATION

There is a new, simplified license application for a recycling facility. The streamlined application will be quicker and easier to complete. The application is available on the DEQ Solid Waste website:

www.deq.mt.gov/solidwaste/recyclingfacility.mcp

WHY LANDFILLS WILL LEAD THE WAY

Excerpt from MSW Management, June 2014, By Ron Mills and Brian Tippetts

Characterizing municipal solid waste (MSW) as a “resource” rather than “trash” is a viewpoint many waste management professionals are embracing. This change in thinking presents enormous future opportunities, especially in terms of more sustainable reuse of raw materials and financial benefits for the industry in general and landfills in particular. It will create economic advantages through the development of facilities designed for large-scale recovery and reuse of materials from MSW using proven technologies. Recovered materials could then be used either as feedstock by manufacturing facilities located adjacent to the landfill or for the production of “green” energy for use onsite by a variety of commercial operations. The growth of these “green” resource management parks at regional landfills would present critically important economic development opportunities for nearby communities, including a significant level of job creation.

The Reality

Landfilling of MSW has represented the preferred disposal alternative of the modern era. Especially since 1992, when America’s Subtitle D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requiring stringent engineering controls for landfill design, construction and operation became effective, landfilling in the United States has been regarded as a highly reliable, environmentally protective, safe, and sanitary method for managing MSW.

Partly in response to the requirements of the federal and provincial regulations, the number of smaller, active landfills in the United States and Canada declined substantially during the past 20 years, while the number of larger, regional landfills owned and operated primarily by large private sector companies has grown significantly.

However, the majority of the MSW not being landfilled today must be transported long distances to be reused, repurposed, or recycled. Achieving higher rates of overall diversion in the future will require stronger consideration of this logistical component as we move to a more environmentally and economically sustainable model for using resources.

The Vision

Since 1990, recyclables processing, sorting, and recovery technologies have advanced to make recovery of recyclables from mixed MSW more effective and efficient. These systems appear capable of achieving overall recycling rates well in excess of 50% of the mixed wastestream, but regardless of how efficiently recyclable materials can be harvested from MSW, the challenge remains how to economically and efficiently move this recovered material to a reuse market. The logistical costs involved in transporting large quantities of recyclables any appreciable distance will significantly affect the economics of the business model.

One of the most important factors affecting the economical harvesting of recyclables from the MSW stream is the scale or quantity of material being processed. Ultimately, processing efficiency comes down to a per-unit cost.

A critical factor in being able to achieve profitable operation of a recyclables recovery system is finding an ongoing market demand for the collected material. Facilities such as paper mills designed to process recovered paper and fiber come to mind and are active in the marketplace today. Similarly, reuse of some metals and plastics as feedstock for production of certain consumer products is currently practiced.

In many cases, these manufacturing interests will be looking to locate their production facilities in close proximity to the source of their feedstock which is at the recyclables collection and processing facilities themselves which in many cases will be located at a regional landfill. This vision involves the creation of “green” resource management parks around and in proximity to regional landfills. Obviously, development of these parks also brings the prospect of economic development and job creation for each landfill’s host community.

The Opportunity

The key to its success involves mutually beneficial partnerships between the involved private for-profit interests complemented by support from communities that will host and benefit from the job creation and economic development opportunities of green resource management parks.

All will occur within the context of an approach to MSW management that is based on principles of both environmental and economic sustainability.

Entire article can be read at www.mswmanagement.com/MSW/Articles/25995.aspx

MANAGER OF LANDFILL OPERATIONS (MOLO)

May 18—22, 2015, Kalispell Hilton Garden Inn

The Manager of Landfill Operations course provides a comprehensive study of efficient landfill operations, including site design, compliance with regulations, and issues to consider when planning, operating, and closing landfills.

The course is offered by SWANA as preparation for the Landfill Management Certification Exam. Earn 30 CEUs upon completion of this course.

Who Should Attend

This course is intended for landfill owners, operators, managers, supervisors, foremen, as well as engineers and employees responsible for daily landfill operation

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the scope of landfill importance, purpose, characteristics, design, equipment and compliance with regulations
- Manage daily operational procedures
- Improve landfill safety
- Understand construction and surveying practices
- Implement and manage effective monitoring systems
- Maximize your site's administration
- Improve efficiency and control costs

Registration will be available in February 2015

In preparation for the MOLO Exam you may want to take the online-only course, [MOLO: Just the Math](#). Whether you've been unsuccessful on the examination in the past, or are looking to get certified for the first time, this recorded webinar will explain all of the definitions and calculations you will need to succeed when taking the Landfill Operations Certification Exam. After taking this course you will be able to:

- Define and calculate area
- Define and calculate volume
- Define and calculate slope
- Define and calculate elevation

The SWANA member price is \$49; \$99 for non-members. It's worth it to reduce **EXAM-ANXIETY!**

Contact SWANA for information about the MOLO: Just the Math course. www.swana.org

COMPOSTING IN MONTANA

Planned for spring 2014, date and location to be determined—monitor website for more information



Newsletter Contact: - Solid Waste Program

Send your questions or submissions for upcoming issues to:
mhendrickson@mt.gov, 406-444-5300

*Sometimes you get the results you wanted,
sometimes you don't. What matters is that you did your best.*
- Jonathan Lockwood Huie