



Solid Waste Section

Newsletter

Volume 23

November 2005

RICK'S CORNER

SOLID WASTE SECTION NEWS

Fall is here once again and similar to outside, change is in the air within the Solid Waste Section. The significant changes that will impact the regulated community are, training, personnel, and regulations. No need to panic, these changes were carefully considered and are in the best interest of the licensees and the SWP.

A significant change to the SWP is the hiring of Renai Hill to fill the position vacated by George Scriba several months ago. Renai is an internal transfer from the Hazardous Waste Section. She brings many years of environmental experience to the SWP having served in the Air Force and most recently as a hazardous waste inspector for the DEQ. Renai's duties will involve

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MERCURY IN JUNK VEHICLES?

*From the Cluttered Desk of
Darrell Stankey*

To all of you that are involved in the junk vehicle program, two scary words: mercury switches!

For those who are not familiar with what these are, they are those cute little light units that come on to brighten up the engine or trunk when you lift the hood or lid on your older American-built vehicle. These switches contain a small amount of mercury in a capsule in the light unit that completes the electrical circuit when the trunk lid or hood is raised. *Please note: the Asian and European auto-makers did not use mercury in their compartment light switches.*

As of August 2005, under recently adopted US EPA regulations, when these compartment light units become a waste, the mercury in those light units become what is known as a "**Universal Waste**" - a category of Hazardous Waste. Currently the Federal Government is placing their regulatory emphasis for these switches on the smelter where the scrap metal from automobiles is melted and turned into new steel - not on the incoming material stream. The concern is the potential for mercury containing air emissions coming out the stack.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

1st quarter fee - July 31

2nd quarter fee - October 31

3rd quarter fee - January 31

4th quarter fee - April 30

Annual Report and Financial Assurance Update -
April 1

SWAC Meeting – December 7, 2005

SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS

Department mails license renewals by Nov. 15th

Renewal required before pumping in 2006

License Fee is now \$300.00

Renewals postmarked by April 1 to avoid late fee

January – June Records Due – July 15

Septic Pumper Training Class – January 20, 2006

JUNK VEHICLE PROGRAM

1st quarter Graveyard Log Sheets - April 30

2nd quarter Graveyard Log sheets - July 30

3rd quarter Graveyard Log Sheets - November 30

4th quarter Graveyard Log Sheets - January 30.

MERCURY IN JUNK VEHICLES?

(Continued from page 1)

As a result, the steel makers will probably be looking at the scrap metal they purchase with an eye out for the companies that supply the mercury contaminated scrap the automobile shredders. As you are aware, all of our crushed vehicles go to the shredders. With that in mind, where do you think the shredders will start to look? → to the crushers, of course!

For us, that translates into this question: ***how do we want to handle the mercury switches in the junk vehicles we get?***

If we attempt to remove those switches at the county yards, we will need to address the costs of labor, proper storage, and ultimately, hazardous waste disposal. If we require the owner to remove the switch before we accept the vehicle, where will those switches end up? If we place the burden on the crusher, the bid they offer will decrease and their time in the yard(s) will increase - which could mean fewer yards get crushed each year. If the switches are pulled and stored at the county yard, when disposal time comes, who will arrange for and pay for the disposal? As you can see, there are multiple issues to be looked at from this new Federal regulation. Please put on your thinking caps because this is not a simple issue. I request and welcome your thoughts and ideas on this matter.

Questions? Contact the Junk Vehicle Program at 406-444-5300.



SOLID WASTE – FUN FACTS: The Composition of Litter

- 30% miscellaneous paper and plastic
- 20% take out food packaging
- 10% snack food wrappers
- 8.6% beverage containers
- 31.4% other

Most litter does not originate from people deliberately throwing trash out of car windows. Most litter is a result of inadequate containment, either while in storage or in transit to a disposal site. Put loose trash in bags, cover those loads and cover those trash cans.

Source: (2000, Institute for Applied Research)



SUCCESS AMID THE STORM

In late June this year I headed off to northeastern Montana to conduct my landfill inspections for the solid waste program. Like any other inspection trip, I anticipated the weather to be unpredictable and, at times, entertaining. This year, however, I encountered something new, something that I haven't observed before and as a result, gained essential information that would benefit landfill operators across our state.

I was driving north on Highway 16 headed towards Highway 2. Since I knew there was an intense hailstorm traveling westward across the state, I made plans to stay behind the storm and anticipated that I would observe landfill operators making every effort to manage their landfill in lieu of the storm.

As I approached the entrance to the Valley County Class II Landfill I began to scan the area and, much to my amazement, did not observe litter blowing across the site. I knew the high winds had not skipped the area because I had witnessed them myself. So where was the blowing litter and debris? I inspected the working face and observed a very manageable working face, a very good application of daily cover, and a superior application of intermediate cover. Curious as to how the debris and litter was so properly managed throughout the storm, I asked the landfill operators and manager what they did to achieve such success. I made my notes as they explained their methods and then headed west to continue along my inspection route.

As I approached Malta I encountered trees that had fallen and been twisted by the high winds. I stopped at the Malta Class II Landfill to conduct my inspection near the end of the working day. As I entered the landfill boundaries I initially observed content landfill operators working diligently with incoming traffic and their loads of wood debris from the hailstorm. They had received so much debris that one operator had chipped incoming wood debris with a wood chipper for the majority of the day. Curious once again by the absence of blowing litter and debris associated with the storm, I consulted with the landfill operators and manager to inquire about their success.

How was it possible for these landfills to manage their facility with such success in the face of an intense storm? What did these two sites have in common? Listed below are six successful operational components that I witnessed, which I have found to be key elements to ensuring the continued successful operation of a solid waste landfill:

1. Portable primary litter fences situated around the main perimeter of the working cell.
2. Permanent, taller secondary litter fences situated around the licensed boundaries of the landfill.
Keep in mind that litter fences don't have to be constructed with high dollar materials. Instead, they can be constructed and modified based on current budgets and available materials. The Sheridan County Class II Landfill is a good example; they have worked diligently over the past years to construct a sufficient amount of litter fences that contain the litter around the working cell and they reused local materials to do it. They are now enjoying the benefit of their primary and secondary litter fences.
3. Managing a smaller working face that is manageable.
4. Applying adequate daily cover at the end of each working day.
Applying and managing a sufficient intermediate cover on all intermediate areas. The intermediate cover does not expose solid waste.
6. The use of a vac truck and litter pickers on a continual basis to remove litter from the fences.

A violation free landfill can be attained if these essential components are implemented into the Operation and Maintenance Plan. The Solid Waste Program recognizes, however, that it doesn't occur over night but through daily perseverance.

I am interested in hearing about your operational achievements. If you have a success story that you would like to share, please contact me in the Solid Waste Program so that I may share your accomplishments in upcoming newsletters!

K. Michele Lizon
Solid Waste Program

THE RESULTS ARE IN. . . . SEPTIC PUMPER TRAINING IS COMING

It's official – a training class is being offered for Septic Tank Pumpers. Last summer, the Solid Waste Program sent a questionnaire to each Montana Licensed Septic Tank Pumper to determine the issues of greatest concern in order to establish training priorities. The results of the survey are in and show that the majority of pumpers who responded want training on laws and rules, recordkeeping, and site operation and management.

The first training class will be held in Helena on January 20, 2006. Mark your calendars. Details and a response card will be sent with the 2006 license renewal packets. Please send in your response to the mailing so that we can ensure that our meeting room is large enough. For more information, contact Mary Louise Hendrickson at 444-1808 or email mhendrickson@mt.gov



NEW METH CLEANUP PROGRAM AT DEQ

During the 2005 Legislature, the Methamphetamine Cleanup Program was passed into law with an effective date of October 1, 2005. DEQ administers the new program.

The new law (House Bill [HB] 60) mandates communication between governmental agencies as well as landlords, tenants, and prospective purchasers of properties that housed former meth labs. State and local law enforcement agents are now required to report enforcement actions against meth labs to the DEQ. The law also creates a cleanup standard for meth and requires certification for those who assess and cleanup meth labs. Meth lab property locations are posted on DEQ's website at www.deq.state.mt.gov/Meth. The Department works with the property owner to decontaminate the property to meet the cleanup standard. Once that is accomplished, the property is removed from the website and the property owner no longer has to disclose the past contamination.

If a property has not been remediated by a certified contractor to the standards established by the DEQ, then the property owner must notify in writing that the property has been used as clandestine meth lab before the property can be leased or sold.

For additional information on DEQ's Meth Cleanup Program, please contact Deborah Grimm by phone at 406-444-5286 or email dgrimm@mt.gov.

JV Trivia

Junk Vehicles Collected:

- FY '03 9,054
- FY '04 9,205
- FY '05 8,592 (as of August, 2005)

Grants to Counties will total more than \$1.3 million for FY '06

Currently, there are 164 licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities and 52 County motor vehicle graveyards

Communication

By Mike DaSilva

The dictionary defines '*communication*' in several different ways:

communication (kuh-myoo' ni-kay-shun) *n.* 1. An act or instance of transmitting. 2. Information communicated: a verbal or written message. 3. A process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior; also: exchange of information: personal rapport. 4. A technique for expressing ideas effectively (as in speech): the technology of the transmission of information (as by print or telecommunication)

All of these definitions apply to the contacts between operators and the Department's solid waste section personnel. Communication between section staff and landfill operators has come a long way in the past few years. We now have the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) for formal communications and the operators and section staff have established good informal communication.

Informal communication is really the grease that keeps the machinery running smoothly. The section staff is never more than a phone call away. Whenever there is a problem or issue that needs addressing, there is nothing like a quick phone call to start on a solution. Any of the staff are available to answer questions at any time. The only "dumb question" is the one that doesn't get asked. It is far better to call and ask than to assume anything or wait until something develops.

This is most important when a facility is planning changes. Whether the change is a small alteration to your operations plan or a major expansion, the best place to begin is with a phone call to section staff to talk over the situation and get a feeling for how to proceed. Very often section staff may have ideas picked up at other facilities that could apply to your situation. If you anticipate a major change, like a new cell or a facility boundary expansion, you can save time and money if your first call is to section staff.

Run your ideas by section staff and let them talk it over with others in the section to brainstorm the best way to approach the change. Get your consultant involved in early, pre-application discussions with staff. The staff is happy to look over preliminary plans and ideas and give you feedback that could save you a lot of time and money. It is easier for your consultant to make changes before a formal application is submitted. In some instances these informal pre-application meetings have allowed facilities to begin construction months before they would have if they had not had the early discussions.

In other instances the pre-application meetings have uncovered items in the plans that could have developed into major problems. Because many things in facility plans depend on other plan items, early discovery has, in some cases, allowed changes to be made before work had progressed to the point that re-design would have been necessary.

Ronald Reagan once said that the most frightening words he had ever heard were, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you." You may laugh, but the section staff really does want to help or be useful to you in any way they can. The primary goal of the Solid Waste Section staff is to help operators stay in compliance with the laws and rules. In addition, they are willing, if asked, to offer suggestions on operations or any other topic having to do with waste disposal.

NEW ELECTRONIC DEED NOTATION FORM AVAILABLE

by Tim Stepp

A new Deed Notation Form is now available from the Solid Waste Program (SWP) for completion and submittal upon final closure of licensed landfill facilities in Montana. The deed notation must reference the Certificate of Survey (COS) for the deeded tract affected and must also include an exhibit that contains a survey locating the perimeter of the waste disposal area relative to monuments established in the COS. The landfill contact during the post-closure care period is also required. Finally, Department approval is required prior to **any** disturbance of the closed landfill.

The SWP has tested an electronic version (Microsoft Word format) of the form that includes embedded instructions that has performed well, greatly shortening the time required to complete the process. You may currently contact the SWP at 444-5300 regarding questions on the form. You may also request an email copy by sending an email request to: wutmbcomments@mt.gov.



Solid Waste Staff Directory:

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Rick's Corner

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facility inspections, and her specialty area will be petroleum-impacted soils and soil treatment facilities. Renai will also be the contact for the Septic Pumper Program. Some of you may have already met Renai, and for those of you who have not, please welcome her when she's out and about performing inspections.

Another significant change involves the return to full funding for operator training sponsored by the DEQ in collaboration with MACO and MSU Extension Service. Eight courses are planned for the next two years.

Finally the solid waste rule packet, which has been under revision for the past year, has been completed. After final internal DEQ review, the rules will be sent to the Secretary of State's office for review and publication for public comment. A public meeting will be held to receive comments on the revised rules during the comment period. Announcements for the publication of the rules and the public meeting are forthcoming.

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.

DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

Katrina and the Spring Snowstorm

By Pat Crowley

What's the difference between a broken branch on a tree in your yard, a spring snowstorm, and a hurricane? Nothing..... except volume and planning.

While we may not have hurricanes in Montana, they have few snowstorms in New Orleans. The one type of disaster we do need to be prepared for in Montana is a sizable earthquake. The effect of an earthquake on your operations could be the same as a hurricane and should be planned for accordingly.

The debris is all generally handled the same way as you handle the day-to-day activities, but the level of preparedness must increase to account for the volume. For the tree branch, you need a saw and a pickup truck. For the snowstorm, big trucks, powerline crews, loaders, grinders, and a large area for composting. For the earthquake or other large disaster, a more complex plan is needed to handle the large volumes of mixed material.

You know where the saw is in the garage and where the keys are to the pickup, but when was the last time you reviewed your disaster plan for large or small events? Solid waste managers need to have critically reviewed the local disaster and emergency plan with respect to staging, pre-planned equipment and contractor contracts, contact lists, and communication needs. At the time disaster hits, it is too late to buy the right radio or start writing a mutual aid agreement. The plan should be reviewed at least once a year to make sure it reflects your current conditions.

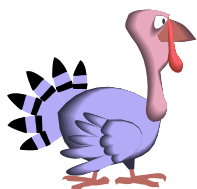
In one parish (county) in New Orleans there will be 50 million cubic yards of debris by the time the cleanup is finished. Rotted food and soggy mattresses, whole blocks of houses destroyed, branches, blown transformers, shingles, and lots of contaminated mud. Years of garbage created in just one day.

We do have our disasters, too! Ask Bob McWilliams how many chimneys were cracked in Dillon after a minor earthquake this year. The damage from that quake extended to a school in Helena. And this was only a 4.6. Or how about the early fall snow in Billings and Miles City. One hailstorm can nearly double your annual tonnage.

Perhaps it is time to pull the Disaster Plan off the shelf and update it so at least the phone numbers and names are current - please spell mine right this time. Just kidding. For more information, feel free to call me at 406-444-5294, or email pcrowley@mt.gov.



Happy Thanksgiving



from the Solid Waste Program Staff

Help Wanted Ad Translations

Energetic self-starter: You'll be working on commission.

Entry level position: We will pay you the lowest wages allowed by law.

Experience required: We do not know the first thing about any of this.

Fast learner: You will get no training from us.

Flexible work hours: You will frequently work long overtime hours.

Good organizational skills: You'll be handling the filing.

Make an investment in you future: This is a franchise or a pyramid scheme.

Management training position: You'll be a salesperson with a wide territory.

Much client contact: You handle the phone or make "cold calls" on clients.

Must have reliable transportation: You will be required to break speed limits.

Must be able to lift 50 pounds: We offer no health insurance or chiropractors.

Opportunity of a lifetime: You will not find a lower salary for so much work.

Planning and coordination: You book the bosses travel arrangements.

Quick problem solver: You will work on projects months behind schedule already.

Strong communication skills: You will write tons of documentation and letters.

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