Montana Solid Waste News



WINTER 2014 ISSUE

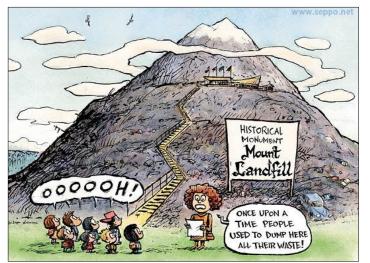
2012 Waste Diversion & Recycling Report

By Kathy O'Hern

Each year the Department of Environmental Quality gathers solid waste data from landfills, recycling centers, compost facilities, and other solid waste management operations to determine the amount of waste generated in the state. The data is collected, and then categorized by what is done with the waste—is it landfilled, sent out of state, burned, recycled, reused, composted, or what?

What has been determined is that during the past ten years the amount of waste diverted from the landfills and recycled has increased in Montana—from 15% in 2003 to 21.9% in 2012. Way to go Montana!

So, you licensed facilities, when you receive your annual renewal notice in February, 2014, please complete the "2013 Montana Recycling Survey." This is the mechanism used to gather Montana's tonnages.



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Rick's Corner

By Rick Thompson, SW Program Section Supervisor

WHAT'S NEW?

Happy New Year! As we charge forward into the New Year with renewed vigor, armed with the knowledge gained and the lessons learned from the experiences of the past year, I thank your efforts to stay in compliance while providing an invaluable service for the state.

The solid waste world state-wide has been fairly quiet over the past few months. The recent cold snap followed by extremely high winds presented some challenges, but facilities managed to weather the storms by taking appropriate action(s) to reduce litter and equipment shut down due to the extreme cold.

What's on the horizon for 2014? Operator training is high on our list of priorities. Over the years, the free training provided to licensed facilities has translated into a very high level of compliance at licensed solid waste management systems (SWMS). We hope to continue providing courses which are relevant to the day-to-day operations at licensed SWMS facilities. In order to do so, we would like feedback on the type of training you desire, regardless of the type of the facility you operate. To that end, please complete the training survey on the forthcoming license renewal application. Also, if you attend training, please complete the course evaluation. Your feedback on the evaluation is invaluable in helping us plan future training events.

Also high on our list of priorities for 2014 is the completion of rule packages for oil field exploration and production wastes, composting, and petroleum impacted soil treatment facilities. The solid waste program is working with our internal and external stakeholders to produce these rules which will provide better oversight of emerging SWMS.

Last but not least on our list of priorities is to have a greater field presence not just for inspections, but to provide timely compliance assistance.

That is all I have for now, and if you have any questions please contact me or any of the SWP staff.

EPA to Propose New Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

By Rebecca Harbage, DEQ Air Quality Planner

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to revise its New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and associated Emission Guidelines (EG) for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfills. Currently, MSW Landfills with design capacities greater than or equal to 2.5 million megagrams (2.755 million tons) or 2.5 million cubic meters (3.27 million cubic yards) are subject to EPA's original 1996 rules, which regulate emissions of non-methane organic compounds (NMOC). Only those sources with a calculated NMOC emission rate equal to or greater than 50 megagrams per year are currently required to install collection and control systems.

In late 2013, EPA announced that it plans to propose revisions to both the NSPS for <u>new</u> MSW Landfills and the EG for <u>existing</u> MSW Landfills in February 2014. Following this anticipated timeline, EPA intends to publish final revisions before the end of 2014, which would take effect in early 2015. EPA has not yet announced what specific changes sources should expect. However, EPA has indicated the proposal may include a combination of the following: revisions to the design size applicability threshold, revisions to the emission rate applicability threshold, revisions to the time allotted for gas collection system installation, revisions to the time allotted for well field expansion, and revisions to surface monitoring requirements.

More information will be available following publication of the proposed revisions in February 2014. At that time, the Department of Environmental Quality will assess the changes and may present further detail at future meetings of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and/or the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.

Upcoming Solid Waste Training

Oil Field Wastes—Characteristics, Impact,

and Management

February 19-20, 2014

Miles City Sleep Inn & Suites 1006 S. Haynes Ave, Miles City, MT 59301

Agenda

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, 8am—5pm Morning

Oil Field Operation:

- What wastes are generated through oil field operations?
- How are these wastes handled?

<u>Afternoon</u>

- Federal Regulations pertaining to oil field wastes
- Policy and guidelines for NORM/TENORM
 management
- Montana State regulations and enforcement
- Regional consistency in TENORM management

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, 8am—5pm Morning

• Management and Disposal of TENORM, including history, basic chemistry, measurement, control methods, tip & tricks.

<u>Afternoon</u>

- Specific examples of changing operations at regional landfills
- Montana landfill operations and requirements

For more information and to register online: www.deq.mt.gov/solidwaste/training.mcpx

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. If you would like to borrow any of the DVDs for your safety meetings, call 406-444-5300 or e-mail <u>wutbcomments@mt.gov</u>. The DVD will be mailed to you along with a return envelope. The DVDs will be loaned out for two weeks at a time.

- LF-05 Working in Dusty Conditions
- LF-06 Traffic Safety/Road Design
- LF-13 Working in Extreme Weather Hot Weather
- LF-14 Preventing Landfill Fires

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Are you a skilled equipment operator? Good enough to compete against other solid waste equipment operators?

Here is your chance to show off, have some fun, and compete for prizes!

April 29-30, 2014

Billings Best Western Kelly Inn & Suites and the Billings Regional Landfill

- <u>Day 1</u> <u>Classroom</u> Equipment Maintenance instruction by Blue Ridge Services <u>Billings Landfill</u> - hands on equipment maintenance
- Day 2 Billings Landfill Landfill Equipment Rodeo and equipment demonstrations

Pre-registration will be **REQUIRED** for both the two-day training and to compete in the Heavy Equipment Rodeo.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!!

Scheduled for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015: Fall 2014

- Landfill Training: Rules update, Operations & Maintenance Plan development, Landfill economics, inspections
- 24-Hour HAZWOPER

Spring 2015

- Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO)
- Composting: Food waste, animal mortality composting, Montana's new composting rules
- LF-21 Extreme Conditions Rain Storms/Wet Weather
- LF-41 Methane Gas Safety
- LF-47 Slope Stability Excavation Slopes
- LF-55 Leachate Management & Handling
- LF-70 Landfill Odors: Safety Issues
- TS-01 The Basics of Transfer Station Safety
- TS-03 Equipment Safety General Issues
- TS-06 Bloodborne Pathogens
- TS-28 Dealing With Unruly Customers

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

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On the Lighter Side...

By Tim Stepp, SW Program Engineer

Garbage Bonds?



Mr Cui, a Chinese man, put his savings in a garbage bin to hide from burglars while on a trip away from home - then forgot and threw out the bin.

In the bin was the equivalent of \$6,000 USD. "We looked around our home and finally decided to hide the money in the garbage bin, where we

believed it was safest from burglary," said Cui who lives in Qingdao City. But Cui and his wife forgot about the money when they returned home, reports *Bandao City Papers*. "I threw away the garbage the day after I came back, since the bin was full," he said.

Two days passed before Cui remembered where he had hidden the money, and when he rushed to check the garbage room, it had already been taken away. "Our last hope was the city garbage treatment center, but the landfill was so vast that we knew our money was lost forever," he said.

Can Financial Assurance have a "Lighter Side"?

Financial assurance can be tricky with unexpected side effects. This funny true story reminded me of a lesson learned during a recent situation where the humor may also be truly difficult to find for the people it affects, yet it also illustrates how the licensee's choice may have undesired side effects. The focus of the story, and today's topic, both center around careful selection of the FA mechanism that best suits your needs—to faithfully guarantee the availability of adequate funds to meet regulatory obligations without precipitating bankruptcy.

Let's briefly discuss unique issues of timing involved with attractive "financial guarantee" mechanisms, such as the new corporate guarantee. Faulty timing was clearly disastrous in the case of those poor Chinese citizens. A similar problem can arise with financial guarantees that rely on complex annual audits and performance criteria. The parallel case addressed below involves a Local Government Guarantee Option (or LOGO).

Near the end of last year before Christmas, we once again reminded a licensee that their LOGO demonstration would be due as usual by December 31, and that a request for extension may be necessary. Please note that **a deadline of 90 days** after the end of a *corporate fiscal year* is usually considered adequate. Local governments are however given an automatic 90-day extension due to other complexities surrounding the third-party audit requirement. But at a minimum, *all engineering cost estimates* are always due by April 1 yearly, regardless of the FA mechanism selected.

When the contact person for their fiscal office called to discuss the extension, they complained that their third-party auditor was way behind again causing undue delays. We reminded them the performance of their contractors was already accounted for in the extension and that they might consider their options. They insisted that they would not fire the auditor who has balanced the books for the entire operation for years. We noted that they should select another FA option that works for them while also meeting their regulatory obligations.

Gratefully they decided to consider selection of the simpler trust fund option and we sent them the forms. A moment of truth arrived when we reminded them that an initial lump sum deposit must be made at the outset based on the percentage of landfill life elapsed thus far. There was a long silence and I could hear them swallow as they wondered what happened to the nest egg in the enterprise fund. Like the unfortunate Chinese folks, several issues of poor timing have apparently caught up with them!

Water Protection Training

BMP 101: Storm Water Management During Construction Butte, MT January 28, 2014

BMP 101: Storm Water Management During Construction Billings, MT March 18, 2014

BMP 201: SWPPP Administrator Billings, MT March 19 and 20, 2014

Montana Storm Water Conference Curbing the Flow: Positive Solutions for Storm Water Management Billings, MT April 8 thru 10, 2014

BMP 101: Storm Water Management During Construction Missoula, MT April 22, 2014

BMP 201: SWPPP Administrator Missoula, MT April 23 and 24, 2014

BMP 101: Storm Water Management During Construction Bozeman, MT May 13, 2014

BMP 301: Conducting Storm Water Compliance Evaluation Inspections for Construction Activities Bozeman, MT May 14 and 15, 2014

For more information visit http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/ctss/ default.mcpx or contact Chris Romankiewicz: <u>cromankiewicz@mt.gov</u> (406) 475-2138.

Los Angeles' Puente Hills Landfill Closes

November 1, 2013 By Allan Gerlat

The Los Angeles-area Puente Hills Landfill, one of the largest landfills in the United States, closed at the end of October.

The facility, owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, did business for 56 years before it stopped accepting waste Oct. 31, the county said in a news release. It will take 12 to 18 months to close the landfill, including the final cover and other closure work.



After closure, filled areas of the landfill will be available to the county Department of Parks and Recreation for the development of a park.

"The closure ends an era of cost effective and environmentally sound landfilling operations at the facility, which has been a model for landfills across the country," stated Grace Robinson Chan, sanitation districts chief engineer and general manager.

The sanitation district operates five other facilities to meet the area's waste management needs. The Puente Hills Landfill has employed numerous approaches to waste management, including electricity from the landfill gas, operating a material recovery facility (MRF) and recycling programs.

Electronics Recycling Bill Gets More Congressional Support

December 13, 2013 Rey Mashayekhi

Twelve more members of the U.S. House of Representatives have thrown their weight behind the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act (RERA), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 18.

RERA, introduced in July by Rep. Gene Green (D., Texas), would prohibit the export of untested, nonworking electronic waste. Proponents claim the legislation would provide environmental and economic benefits, encouraging both the responsible recycling of electronic scrap and the creation of new jobs in the U.S. electronics recycling industry.

RERA supporters said that with the additional Democratic and Republican co-sponsors, they are confident of its passage heading into the new year.

"We have strong momentum as we head in to 2014, as reflected in our growing support on both sides of the aisle," Steve Skurnac, president of Sims Recycling Solutions and a member of the Coalition of American Electronics Recyclers, said in a statement. "We are confident we will secure passage of this legislation that will create tens of thousands of good jobs, promote investment in our American industry and help secure our national defense."

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, which represents more than 375 Silicon Valley businesses, threw its support behind the law in October, calling it "a jobs bill that would create more jobs in the U.S. through the processing of used electronic products in safe ways, in the process giving a boost to small business recyclers."

A Massive Trash Incinerator With a Ski Slope on Top

November 6, 2013 By Biz Carson

Forget Vail or the Alps—Copenhagen's Amager Bakke power plant will soon top the list of hip ski destinations. Technically, it's designed to turn garbage into energy via a potent incinerator, but starting in 2017, winter visitors will be able to ride an elevator up the corner and emerge into a snowy wonderland. At the top of the 280-foot-high roof-turned-slope, skiers will be able to zip through a landscape of pine trees (and air vents that double as quarter pipes).





In 2010 the plant's management

company held a competition to design the facade. Bjarke Ingels, head of an international architecture firm working on a design, felt like something was off. "We couldn't escape the feeling that we were just making it look nice," he says. "It lacked a clear benefit to the community." Two weeks before the deadline, a nearby waterskiing park spurred an idea. Ingels and his team wanted to make the incinerator a piece of social infrastructure and give the citizens of Copenhagen a place to play once the weather became too cold for water sports. Who'll be

satisfied with a regular power plant now? Not us.

Name: Amager Bakke (Amager Hill) Budget: \$670 million Completion: Spring 2017 Input: 400,000 tons of waste per year Output: Heating for 160,000 households and electricity for 62,500 households The slope: The rooftop ski runs, totaling 11,000 square meters, will be a mix of natural and man-made snow. The visitors: The roof will slope all the way to the ground, so hikers can enjoy the ascent.

Landfills in North Western Energy's service area:

NorthWestern Energy (N.W.E.) is going to fund cost-effective carbon offset projects in its Montana service area. The company will provide a total of \$146,000 in funding for eligible projects that, among other criteria, "combust or contain methane gases from landfills or other industrial wastes."

Eligible projects must either reduce carbon emissions or promote the incremental absorption of carbon from the atmosphere. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued pursuant to the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) Order No. 6943a that authorized construction of the Dave Gates Generating Station. Montana law requires N.W.E. to "offset the new carbon generated by the DGGS plant by funding projects that reduce carbon in the atmosphere," said John Hines, Vice President - Energy Supply. "We worked through the details of the carbon offset plan with the Montana Public Service Commission to fund eligible projects that comply with the spirit and intent of the law."

For more information, please visit http://www.northwesternenergy.com.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. February 28, 2014.

Steel Fact - from Gerdau Steel Products:

"Steel takes up to 100 years to fully degrade in a landfill."

Newsletter Contact: - Kathy O'Hern

Send your questions or submissions for upcoming issues to: kohern@mt.gov, 406-444-9879 Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

- Mark Twain