

Questions and Answers Regarding the Proposed Regional Landfill

Question:

- 1. Will the County hire more people to operate the new Solid Waste Facility?**

Answer:

Randolph County would hire an outside company that is experienced in operating a regulated landfill. This company would hire the majority of employees, although local people may be hired as part of this process. Local contractors may also be used for landfill construction activities. The truck drivers would also be hired by an outside company. The County may need several more employees. The County intends to operate the scalehouses, and several more people would be hired there. All costs associated with additional employees would be paid with landfill tipping fees, not property taxes.

Question:

- 2. What is the advantage for the citizens? What will the cost be to dispose of private household waste, white goods, tires, metal, recyclables, etc.?**

Answer:

Citizens pay for solid waste disposal through user fees, much like water and sewer services (not through County property taxes). By operating our own facility rather than shipping to another location, the County could reduce these user fees for our citizens. We would charge more for out-of-county solid waste. The funds generated by the solid waste facility would help take pressure off the County's property tax rate.

Randolph County citizens in small vehicles and trucks up to $\frac{3}{4}$ ton would be able to dispose of their household solid waste for free. The County would monitor the number of trucks to ensure there are no individuals taking unfair advantage of this. The County already takes white goods, tires and recyclables for free. Metals would be charged on the new tipping fees.

Question:

3. Will the County monitor my well? How will the County ensure my well water is safe?

Answer:

The NC Solid Waste Management Regulations mandate strict enforcement of rules and would require testing groundwater around the facility at least twice a year through the use of an extensive and state-approved groundwater monitoring well network (which is supplemented by a surface water monitoring network). This testing is more stringent than normal residential well tests and includes semi-annual testing for a comprehensive and federally mandated list of 15 metals and 47 ('man-made') volatile organic constituents. Based on data collected over a period of more than 18 years, the closed landfill is in compliance with state regulations.

The new landfill would be tested and is designed to be much safer than the former operation. We feel your well water is safe; the new facility would be much, much more environmentally safe than the current facility that was opened in 1972. Further, the anticipated landfill design will likely entail a double-liner system, as an added safeguard for groundwater quality.

Question:

4. Who do I call to report problems such as loose litter, noise, traffic routes, etc.?

Answer:

The new Solid Waste Facility would have its own telephone number; the Contractor operating the landfill would be required under their contract to pick up any trash within 2 hours after it is reported. If other permit-specific requirements require trash pick-up frequencies otherwise, these would be followed. With a 300-foot (or greater, in some areas) buffer and operating hours during routine business hours, noise should not be an issue. County Staff would be checking behind the Contractor to ensure that our specified traffic routes are followed.

Question:

5. Who will clean up litter problems within 2 hours?

Answer:

Under the Contract with our operator, the Contractor would be responsible. (See answer to #4)

Question:

6. What will be the days and hours of operations? Will the Solid Waste Facility close for holidays?

Answer:

The normal operation hours would remain 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for all commercial vehicles. The Residential Disposal Site would follow these times, but would also be open on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, which has been the standard for many years. We have not determined whether we would need to be open any holidays. We do not expect to be open any major US holidays.

Question:

7. What are the lighting plans, and what effect will it have on the community?

Answer:

We would have lighting on the internal roads, for winter hours. There would be no lights on the landfill except for security lights around the entrance and scalehouse unless otherwise required by a State or Federal agency during the permitting process.

Question:

8. How much commercial truck traffic will be expected on a daily basis?

Answer:

Possibly 75 – 100 trucks once we got to full capacity. All trucks would be on the new access road and not parked on Old Cedar Falls Road. Also, the County already sends 14 – 18 trucks out of our Transfer Station Facility

along Henley Country Road; they would also travel the new traffic pattern. NCDOT is still evaluating the roads on the proposed route to determine any needed improvements or changes.

Question:

9. What type of materials will be accepted at the new facility? Will hazardous materials be accepted?

Answer:

Materials accepted would be the same materials the County has taken since 1972 (household waste, commercial waste, industrial waste and wood waste). **No hazardous waste** would be accepted. A detailed waste screening plan is also required by regulation and will be used by the County and their operator to verify that wastes are acceptable at the facility.

Question:

10. How many outside of Randolph County city customers and other counties will be allowed to use the facility?

Answer:

Randolph County governments currently ship only 400 tons a day to landfills. For a landfill to operate profitably, you need volume. And to get volume, you need customers who are within a reasonable hauling distance to make shipping costs affordable. Based upon the costs to operate an efficient landfill, we have a target goal of 1,500-2000 tons of waste a day, and we have determined that that amount is available from the Piedmont. Transportation expenses are a significant part of the overall cost of solid waste disposal. Randolph County is centrally located and has good roads leading to the facility. The number of out-of-county customers depends upon how much volume they bring. Once we had secured several contracts, reaching our expected daily maximum, we would stop marketing for new customers until our volume dropped below our target.

Question:

11. Are there emergency plans for fires and who will respond? Will this place a burden on the Franklinville Fire Department, and are they prepared to handle this?

Answer:

Any fire of solid waste would be best handled by extinguishing with dirt rather than with water. The Operator's bulldozers would isolate any burning trash dropped off at the site and cover it with soil to smother the fire. We feel very comfortable the Franklinville Fire Department could handle any issue at the proposed facility.

Question:

12. When will the new Solid Waste Facility open, if approved?

Answer:

The County plans to submit initial site suitability reports in 2013; however, the timetable for a permit is controlled by the State "Department of Environmental and Natural Resources." Once a permit is approved, construction could take a year or longer, and then we would begin operation. It would take time for the facility to get to our 1,500-2,000 ton a day goal.

Question:

13. How many years could the new Solid Waste Facility potentially operate?

Answer:

The expected life of the current area available ("the Landfill Foot Print") is in excess of 30 years. The actual life is dependent upon the volume of solid waste received and anticipated waste footprint, and would be evaluated annually to determine lifetime.

Question:

14. Are there possibilities of future expansion?

Answer:

In the present, with the expected long life of this facility, there are no plans for expansion. Recycling rates and expected changes in technology make projecting the need for landfill expansions 30 years in the future too speculative.

Question:

15. Did Randolph County consider any other sites for possible location?

Answer:

Based on criteria detailed in the North Carolina Solid Waste Management Rules and siting restrictions listed in Senate Law 2007-550 for locating sanitary landfills, the County and its consultants identified and evaluated 16 potential sites that could host a MSW landfill with an approximate 30-year capacity. We used available Geographic Information System (GIS) data, tax records, and publicly available information to identify and evaluate alternate sites. The current proposed location was head and shoulders above the rest due to local utilities, traffic, and current operations.

Question:

16. What protection will be provided for Deep River and the streams located on the site?

Answer:

Protection of the river and all streams are strictly regulated by the State (Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and Division of Water Quality). In general, the surface water quality downstream of the landfill has been better than the upstream results. The County is maintaining a 300-foot buffer from the Deep River and would maintain the mandatory 50-foot buffer from all other perennial tributaries, as required by NCDENR. There will be no landfill development within the 100-year floodplain areas on the property, as required by law.

A modern landfill facility has a drainage system to capture the leachate fluid. Leachate would accumulate in a tank and trucked to the City of

Asheboro's sewage treatment facility for processing. The landfill liner system would be designed with a double liner and a detection zone that would collect leachate before it encounters the secondary liners, and therefore, further reduces the potential for releases to the environment.