



Solid Waste Workshops: RCRA Subtitle D

Currently, only 27 of the state's 59 operating municipal solid waste landfills are equipped either with composite or alternative liners that comply with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D regulations. This means that over 54% of Iowa's landfills must either develop new disposal capacity with adequate liner systems or close by the October 2007 compliance date.

To assist in this transition, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), in cooperation with the Iowa Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations) will be conducting workshops on May 17th and June 1st, for local officials to discuss the environmental and economic impacts when considering closing an existing landfill, or expanding an existing landfill to meet state and federal regulations. These workshops will bring together community officials, solid waste commission board members, landfill operators/managers, and key decision makers from across the state who are responsible for solid waste planning, permitting, and operation, to discuss opportunities toward addressing RCRA Subtitle D requirements.

The first workshop on May 17th will focus on providing attendees with tools to analyze the expected cost of design, construction and operation of a RCRA Subtitle D compliant landfill in Iowa. This session will draw on data from the landfills owned/operated by participants in order to make the session more relevant. Attendees will also receive materials to take home and share with Board members and employees. Attendees will then be encouraged to return to their respective boards and commissions to work through the analysis. The Department will extend the workshops' effectiveness by having workshop facilitators available between sessions, for individual phone consultation to address issues/concerns that may arise during discussions.

The second workshop on June 1st will build upon the first workshop by focusing on information about other solid waste management options, such as the process and costs associated with closing a landfill and transferring waste to another disposal facility. This session will also include a discussion on how to achieve buy-in with the local decision-makers and affected citizens/generators.

"These workshops are a great opportunity for local decision makers to find the information they need regarding landfill expansion costs and impacts on their planning area," said Jeff Myrom, Executive Officer with the IDNR. "Given the costs and implications of expanding a landfill or constructing a transfer station, I think that local officials will benefit from this workshop even if they are pretty sure about which option they are going to pursue."

Both workshops will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn near the intersection of Interstate 80/35 and 86th Street in Johnston. Registration fees are \$40 for one session or \$70 for both. In an effort to have more than one participant per solid waste agency, IDNR will offer a "buy two, get one free" registration. When two people from an agency sign up to attend, registration fees are waived for a third person (preferably a board member).

For more information on the workshops, please contact Chad A. Stobbe, Program Planner at (515) 242-5851; email Chad.Stobbe@dnr.state.ia.us. We hope to see you there!