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**To:** <jeff.myrom@dnr.state.ia.us>  
**Date:** 10/15/04 11:17AM  
**Subject:** Subtitle D Liners for Landfills

Mr. Jeff Myrom:

I have been working with the Sac County and Cherokee County Landfills since 1991. Our firm has work with these these same landfills for 20 plus years. It never ceases to amaze me how IDNR keeps their landfill rules a moving target that change year to year.

Between the years of 1991 to 1996, many of the landfills in the State of Iowa under the guidance of the IDNR retrofitted their existing landfills with leachate collection systems. The IDNR never presented any information that these landfills may be forced to close in the future for they do not meet Subtitle D requirements. They have over the years since allow and in some case encouraged vertical expansions to these landfills that have retrofitted their landfills with leachate collection. The Cherokee County Landfill had an addition vertical expansion over a retrofitted landfill area approved in 1999 with an estimated landfill life of over nine (9) years. They are a regional landfill accepting waste from Buena Vista, Plymouth and Cherokee Counties. They are in the process of planning for the development of a new landfill area adjacent and east of the current landfill. They have 4 to 5 years of life available in the current vertical expansion. They will need a projected 4 years to complete the design and development of the new landfill area. But due to pressure from EPA, the IDNR is proposes to force closure of this landfill within the next two years.

The DNR staff pushed for and had the State Landfill Rules approved by EPA in the past. In 2003 you put out information about a 10 year window for closure of unlined landfills. This was a reasonable time period. Now you tell these same landfills that EPA will require them to close within two (2) years. The EPA was not concern with these facilities in 2003, but now a year later that the State has decided to update their rules, these landfills are an unacceptable risk. You have record of the landfill capacity of all these landfills in your Department. You have record of how many of them have unlined facilities. Have you reviewed this and report to EPA how many and how much of the State Landfill Capacity is affected by this?

In addition to this being an unreasonable time frame, what good will come from closing a landfill that already has thirty years of solid waste placed in it. Will closing the landfill early reduce any risk of groundwater contamination over the next 30 years or the next 50 years? Was that not the reason why the DNR pushed for landfills put in leachate collection to reduce that risk? Why won't the DNR push that these retrofitted landfills with permitted space be allowed to complete those areas as planned. It was acceptable to the DNR and EPA last year.

On behalf of the Cherokee and Sac County Landfills we request the Department reconsider this proposal. We further request the Department report to all Landfill Boards and their Engineers, how many landfills this affects and what percentage of the total landfill space in the State these landfills represent.

As a ISOSWO member, I would hope the DNR will have them on Board when this issue is discussed with the EPA staff again. If DNR does it homework and presents the true picture of the impact this will have on the State, it is hard for me to believe a more reasonable time frame can not be worked out with EPA.

For fifteen (15) years all we have heard is how EPA is forcing the State to do these things. In the past the DNR staff has stood their ground and found compromise on many issues. We only ask the for your staff to do the same this time.

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