

City of Orient

P.O. Box 116 ~ Orient, IA. 50858

"NOT JUST ANOTHER SMALL TOWN"

Phone 515-337-5711

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Energy & Waste Management Bureau
Attention: Jeff Myrom
502 East Ninth Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Draft MSW Landfill Expansion and Liner Guidance

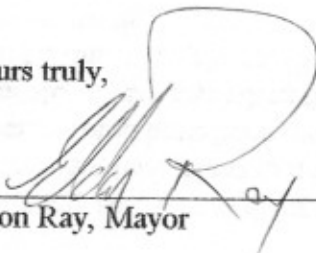
Dear Mr. Myrom,

As Mayor of the City of Orient, I have been informed of the proposed Iowa DNR mandates which were presented in July of 2003. Your time line of implementing these regulations in a month seems quite unreasonable. Our Landfill board has submitted plans for review and approval for the new year and now more expense will be incurred, redesigning their plans to meet the DNR expansion requirements. I understand this added expense could have been avoided if landfills would have been informed of these new mandates a year ago when they were submitting permit renewals. Will there be any Federal funds to help landfills fund the compliance within the next ten years? City budgets are tight, especially since the state confiscated a large portion of our budget to bale themselves out of the red.

We have been informed that, if the DNR is really concerned about the smaller landfills contaminating the ground water, there should be more diligence in enforcing the current rules, which should correct any present contamination. It doesn't take an engineer to figure out that there is a lot of differences in Iowa landfills, with the different types of soils and conditions of the ground water. Therefore, shouldn't each landfill be evaluated separately, taking into consideration these differences and their efficiency?

As Mayor, and representing our City Council, I strongly feel locally run governmental landfills can follow state rules and regulations and not harm the environment. Also, to comply with IDNR unfunded mandates, will put even more unnecessary strain on all member entities of the Adair County Landfill and other landfill operations. Your consideration of our situation will be very much appreciated.

Yours truly,



Eldon Ray, Mayor

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