

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 4**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Memorandum on  
“Number of New Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSWLFs)  
Newly Constructed or Established Annually in the United States”

April 11, 2002

**MEMORANDUM**

FROM: Paul Cassidy,  
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Office of Solid Waste

TO: The Dockets, Nos. F-2002-AIRF-FFFF and F-2002-AIRP-FFFF

SUBJECT: New Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSWLFs) Permitted in the United States

The U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) attempted to determine the exact number of municipal solid waste landfills (MSWLFs) newly constructed or established in the United States per year. Although there is a publication, "Directory and Atlas of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities" published each year by Chartwell Information Publishers that "Directory" lists the total number of MSWLFs for given years, this total number is not indicative of the number of **new** MSWLFs that were opened each year. Telephone calls to James Thompson, Jr., Editor of the "Director" were not returned. Similarly, Biosolids has an annual survey that lists the total number of landfills (2216 in 1999 and 2142 in 2000); but, again, the number does not reflect the number of **new** MSWLFs. In my discussions with both the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Managers Officials (ASTSWMOs) (Kerry Callahan) and the Environmental Industry Associations (EIA) (Ed Repa), the general belief is that the number of new MSWLFs that open annually is very small. The number is believed to be between 9 - 15 MSWLFs annually. Therefore, EPA does not expect the effect of the amendment to the MSWLF location restrictions (referenced above) to have a significant impact on State programs. In any case, the statutory requirements of Section 503 of Public Law 160-181 regarding MSWLF location restrictions for airport safety apply whether or not EPA revises the 40 CFR 258.10 location restrictions for airport safety.

