

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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**PROJECT XL
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PLAN
FOR
LANDFILL BIOREACTOR SYSTEMS
KING GEORGE COUNTY LANDFILL AND
RECYCLING CENTER
AND
MAPLEWOOD RECYCLING AND WASTE DISPOSAL
FACILITY
OPERATED BY
VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary participants include the regulatory community of USEPA and VADEQ, and Waste Management, local community councils and government officials, and interested members of the public. EPA and VADEQ have had considerable influence on the details of the project proposal and will continue their active involvement during the implementation phase.

Interested parties have demonstrated some interests in the project, yet do not wish to actively participate in project development and implementation. Interested parties will usually want to be kept informed of project development and progress, and may wish to attend public meetings and contribute their comments in written or verbal form.

Members of the general public will, most likely, not become actively involved in project development and implementation. Although not actively involved, members will be provided with project information through the local media and central information repository. Members of the general public have the opportunity to participate more actively if they choose to do so.

A Final Project Agreement (FPA) is an agreement between the USEPA and the Sponsors stating the purpose and requirements of the project and how the project is to be implemented and evaluated. It is completed through a cooperative effort between the USEPA, Sponsors, and the Stakeholders.

A permit amendment amends an existing permit for a landfill. There are specific regulatory and technical requirements that must be met for a successful permit amendment. There are prescriptive public participation requirements. A landfill is typically permitted under 9 VAC 20-80-250 and 9 VAC 20-80-500 of the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (VSWMR) and by the Code of Virginia, §10.1-1400 *et seq.* However, since the bioreactor projects are not typical landfill components, the permits will be amended under VSWMR, 9 VAC 20-80-480.G which allows for an experimental permit for innovative treatment technologies.

FIRST-CONTACT AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

- Public Meeting on Aug. 1 [King George County] and Aug. 2 [Amelia County] to solicit comments from the public on the intent of the Sponsors to participate in Project XL
- Public Meetings [tentative] the week of August 14, 2000 to discuss with the citizens the Draft FPA.
- Public Meeting and Hearing October 16 [King George County] and October 17 [Amelia County] to discuss the Draft Permit Amendments for the Facilities.

A kickoff meeting scheduled (anticipated) for August 1 for King George and August 2 for Amelia will be announced in the local papers the week of July 17, 2000. Both meetings will be held at 7.00 PM. A copy of the ads are attached. The project information, contact information, and repository information will be included. The public will have about 10 to 15 days to respond with comments after the public meeting is held. Participants may become actively involved at the time of the meetings in the continuing process or be put on a mailing list to receive periodic

information. Another public meeting may be held a few weeks later to solicit additional participants and comments. As part of the State's permitting process, a public hearing must be held on each of the draft permit amendments. Details of the public hearing process are provided below. It is anticipated that the public hearings for each of the draft permits will most likely occur the week of October 16, 2000. At the second meetings, the draft Final Project Agreement (FPA) will be made available for review and comment. As the FPA is revised and amended, it will be made available at subsequent meetings and at the local library. The availability of the final FPA will be advertised prior to the public hearings held by the State.

COUNTY ENDORSEMENT

The Counties of Amelia and King George endorse the respective projects as evidence by letter of support. These landfills have not had major opposition but rather had public support. Conditions of the host agreements provide benefits to the residences of both counties through revenue and jobs. The respective projects under XL would not affect the host agreements, thus the Counties would continue to receive these benefits. Thus, any Stakeholder opposition in these counties appears to be minimal. However, the sponsors will publish an advertisement describing the desired projects as discussed above. An additional advertisement will be part of the State's public participation process as outlined below.

STATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Before Virginia DEQ issues a permit amendment, it holds a public hearing in the locality to solicit comments on the draft permit from concerned citizens. The public hearing is advertised in the local paper. The public hearing is held a minimum of 30 days from the date of the advertisement. Public comment period begins the day of advertisement and ends 15 days after the public hearing is held. Furthermore the Department has a standardized mailing list of State Agencies to whom a draft permit or notice of draft permit is sent to solicit comments. The Department evaluates the comments and prepares a public response document. The Director then decides within 30 days after the close of comment period whether or not to issue the permit. Conditions may be imposed due to additional State requirements or as a result of public comment. In the initial stages of permitting, the applicant notifies all of the adjacent property owners of his intent to modify or expand the landfill. In this notification, the project is described and contact information is provided. The citizens can comment on the project at this stage or at any other stage of the permitting process until the permit has been issued.

Since both landfills have a valid permit, the State intends to amend the permit to allow the bioreactor systems as an experimental process. The major amendments would be advertised and open to comment as described above. The details of the respective projects would be outlined in the advertisements along with contact information and document viewing locations. It is anticipated this would help identify additional Stakeholders.

EXPERT TECHNICAL REVIEWERS AND COMMENTERS

There will be specific experts and technical advisors who will review the FPA and make appropriate comments on its technical adequacy and regulatory compliance. Some of these

Stakeholders have already been contacted by the Sponsors and have agreed, in part, to review the project. They include faculty members from Virginia Tech and North Carolina State University. Specific individuals are not named in this report because, depending upon availability, they may change over the course of the review time. Other third-party expert reviewers may include Waste Policy Institute, EMCON, and Richardsons and Associates. They will be contacted and offered the opportunity to review and comment.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

The public hearings as required by the State will be supplemented with additional Stakeholder meetings, as necessary. A partial mailing list is attached. The mailing list would be updated as necessary to include private citizens and other interested parties. Periodically, progress reports and other relevant information will be distributed. Mail would be sent on a recurring date or as information is made available. If desired, The Sponsors will provide site tours and briefings to better educate the Stakeholders. Transcripts and video tape recordings of all public meetings and hearings will be maintained at the repositories.

REPOSITORY INFORMATION

An official record of the project will be maintained by the Sponsors at 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA, 22129 c/o Paul Farrell, (804) 698-4214. A mirror site will be maintained within each county at the local library. The address for the library in Amelia County is the James Hamner Memorial Library, 16351 Dunn Street Amelia, Virginia 23002 and the file will be entitled "Amelia Co. Landfill, Maplewood Site, Project XL" The address for the library in King George County is L.F. Smoot Lewis Memorial Library, 9533 Kings Highway King George, Virginia 22485 and the file will be entitled "King George Co. Landfill Project XL".

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND FOIA

Once the Stakeholders have been clearly identified, the Sponsors will periodically meet with the representative of each group or the entire group to discuss issues of concern and to disseminate information. Other members of the groups may personally voice a concern or receive progress reports during the planned public meetings. All information is public domain. Any information that is not currently in the repository may be obtained through a "freedom of information act" (FOIA). To facilitate informational requests, all FOIA request will be placed on a fast-track. It must still meet all of the legal requirements of a FOIA but the information will be provided in a timely manner. The information requested will then be put in the repositories for future reference.

NATIONWIDE SOLICITATION:

To solicit additional Stakeholder involvement, the Sponsors will contact nationwide professional and citizen groups that may have an interest in bioreactor technology. The Solid Waste Association of North America has monthly publications to disseminate information to its members. Periodically, the Sponsors may attend national workshops or seminars. These meetings

would be an ideal forum to present the merits of the individual projects and to actively recruit Stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDERS SHAPING THE PROCESS

The initial meetings will solicit comments and provide information to the public in order for them to make an informed opinion of the process. The Stakeholders may, at any time, provide to the Sponsors comments on the Proposal. However, in order to create an enforceable document, the comments must be incorporated into the final permit required by the State. During the State public participation process, the Department responds to the comments through a public response document. Conditions may be imposed due to additional State requirements or as a result of public comment. The permit is an enforceable document under the Virginia Solid Waste Management Act. Public comments shape the final permit.

Stakeholders may choose to be actively involved. Besides the permit, the Stakeholder's involvement can shape and focus the project through constructive criticism and technical comments. The Stakeholders may actively participate in the project during the meetings, in writing, or any other form of communication the Sponsors. The only rule for involvement is that the comment be relevant and pertinent to the project, either positively or negatively and not go beyond the scope of the permit. The permit itself can be amended but it must still abide by the Virginia Solid Waste Management Act and the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations. A committee of Stakeholders may be formed by the participating Stakeholders to segregate and prioritize pertinent comments. The committee will then work closely with the Sponsors to finalize the project goals and technical issues.