

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# DRAFT

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## Stakeholder Involvement Plan

### Buncombe County Solid Waste Management Facility Bioreactor Project

#### USEPA XL Project

##### Introduction

Stakeholder involvement is considered essential by Buncombe County and has been an important part of the County's solid waste program since the initial siting of the Buncombe County Solid Waste Management Facility in the early 1990's. Buncombe County conducted an extensive public involvement campaign from the initial siting of the facility through permitting, construction, and its eventual opening in September, 1997. Buncombe County held several public meetings during the site selection process and received comments on numerous occasions at County Commission meetings. The County evaluated alternatives to the landfilling including solid waste composting and out-of-county disposal. Buncombe County arranged for a public hearing on the draft permit for the facility as well. The County has already begun an aggressive public education campaign for this XL Project conducting a 30-minute briefing at the County Commissioners 2000 annual retreat which was televised and re-broadcast on numerous occasions on the County's local access government cable channel. In addition, on June 12, 2000, the County held a three-hour educational workshop on the bioreactor technology that was highlighted by a presentation by one of the foremost experts in the field, Dr. Debra Reinhart of the University of Central Florida.

This Stakeholder Involvement Plan is intended to supplement previous activities and describe the basic methods by which additional input can be solicited and received particularly as it relates to Project XL. Stakeholder input will be used to refine and establish community goals for the bioreactor project and will be incorporated into the Final Project Agreement (FPA). Stakeholder input will also help develop the program specifics and evaluate project performance.

##### Goals and Objectives

The goals of the early stakeholder input and this Stakeholder Involvement Plan are to ensure that interested stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to participate in the success of this project and to provide the stakeholders with the information they need to participate in decisions on the future of the Buncombe County Solid Waste Management Facility Bioreactor XL Project.

The following are the objectives of this plan:

- Identify Stakeholders and their role in this project
- Describe methods of communication between the project sponsor and the stakeholders

- Ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the project
- Promote stakeholder involvement in the development of the FPA
- Assure all involved stakeholders that the FPA is adhered to and the progress of the project is reported

### **Identification and Involvement of Stakeholders**

Stakeholders include any individuals, government organizations, neighborhood organizations, academic centers, and companies with an interest in the progress of the Buncombe County Solid Waste Management Facility Bioreactor Project. The identification of Stakeholders will be based on inviting those who are already involved in other environmental issues in the Asheville/Buncombe County area, contacting others with related interests, and by general invitation to the local population. Stakeholders provide information on the preferences of the community and may also identify un-addressed issues.

Stakeholders in the XL program typically fall into three categories; direct participants (EPA, Buncombe County, North Carolina, Camp Dresser & McKee), Commenters (citizens living adjacent to the facility, NC DENR, Western North Carolina Air Pollution Control Agency, the Buncombe County Environmental Affairs Board, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Sierra Club, SWANA, Quality Forward, etc.), and the general public.

Direct participants will work intensively with the Environmental Protection Agency and Buncombe County on designing and developing the project. Commenters have an interest in the project, but do not desire to participate as intensively in the project's development. Commenters will typically want to be kept informed on project development, attend public meetings, and contribute their comments and advice in written or verbal form. Members of the general public might choose not to become directly involved in the project, but will be given easy access to the project development process and to information about the environmental results during project implementation. Members of the general public have the opportunity to participate more actively if they choose to.

Contacting potential stakeholders will occur prior to and during development of the FPA. Commenters will be put on a project mailing list to ensure that they are informed of all opportunities to comment or participate during project development and implementation. The following methods will be used to contact and inform potential stakeholders.

**Local Newspapers:** Display and/or legal ads will be taken out in the major local newspapers to invite the general public to public meetings and inform them of comment periods.

**News Media Notice:** A notice of this project and public meetings in the form of press releases will be sent to the news departments of the local newspapers, and other published media and local radio.

**Cable Television:** Notices of public meetings and comment period will be sent to the community access cable stations for broadcast during the community events segment. They will also be shown on the Buncombe County Government Channel. When possible, the public meetings will be taped and then re-broadcast on the community access stations and/or Buncombe County Government Channel.

**Progress Reports:** Buncombe County will produce semi-annual progress reports that will be disseminated to all project stakeholders and interested parties.

**Newsletters / Fact Sheets:** Newsletters including Fact Sheets will be mailed to everyone on the current mailing list as part of the public notice of meetings and comment periods. These mailings will include status reports, timelines, mileposts, contacts, and future meeting times and locations.

**Internet:** A public web site will be established in conjunction with the EPA Project XL web page. This site, will provide access to announcements, project background and documents, meeting minutes, project developments and implementation status, and provide an internet address for comment submittal.

**Information Repository:** An information repository for the project will be established at the Weaverville Branch of the Buncombe County Public Library System.

**Public Meetings:** Public Meetings will be held to both inform the general public about the project, and to invite their comments and participation. A public workshop was held June 12, 2000. This meeting was intended to be a public education forum where the general public and other stakeholder groups were introduced to the project and to the XL process, and provided general information about the bioreactor technology. Other public meetings may be held during development and implementation of the FPA based on public interest or as decided by the direct participants. Public meeting locations will be chosen to provide adequate size and accessibility to all that wish to attend. A trained facilitator may be provided to assist in the conduct of the public meetings.

**Technology Transfer:** It is hoped that this project will yield data that might later be used to modify the Subtitle D landfill regulations and allow recirculation over alternative liner systems. It is also hoped that this project will yield information that can be used to implement similar projects at landfills across the country. Buncombe County is committed to publishing data from the project in national trade journals and technical publications, as well as presenting them at national, regional, and local conferences when accepted.

**Training:** When requested by members of the stakeholder group, project briefings will be provided to ensure that members have the information they need to participate effectively. These briefings could include discussions of technical issues associated with the project, as well as the public participation process. The first public meeting discussed above served as the first such training meeting.

**Public Education:** Buncombe County has an extensive solid and hazardous waste public education program which includes presentations to school children, businesses that generate hazardous wastes, community groups, and individuals. The County is part owner of a regional Mobile Environmental Learning Center which is used in these presentations. The County intends to incorporate information on the bioreactor project in its solid and hazardous waste public education programs.