

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** 2/17/98

**Reference No.:** CR-14-1998

**Proposer:** County Executive

**Draft No.:** 2

**Sponsors:** Wilson, Del Giudice

**Item Title:** A Resolution adopting The 1998 Ten Year Solid  
Waste Management Plan

**Drafter:** Paivi Spoon  
DER

**Resource Personnel:** Dennis Bigley  
DER

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:**        \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_    \_\_

**Committee Referral:** 2/17/98    THE

**Effective Date:** 4/16/98

**Committee Action:**    3/24/98    FAV(A)

**Date Introduced:**       2/17/98

**Pub. Hearing Date:**    3/17/98    1:30 P.M.

**Council Action:**        3/31/98    ADOPTED

**Council Votes:** RVR:A, DB:A, SD:-, JE:A, IG:-, TH:A, WM:A, AS:A, MW:A

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**    DATE: 3/24/98

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Wilson, Scott, Estepp, Gourdine and Maloney).

Pursuant to Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, CR-14-1998 updates the County's 1994 Comprehensive Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan. The Maryland Article requires each County to prepare a long-term solid waste plan every three years. The plan sets up a program to meet solid waste collection, disposal, and facility needs over the next ten years.

Department of Environmental Resources staff discussed the types of solid waste facilities that exist in the County, as well as proposed programmatic changes. No major changes to the facilities are proposed in this plan. There are no policy changes contained in this update, merely an update of the

types of solid waste facilities that exist in the County.

A written document was submitted by DER which outlined the technical changes to the Proposed 1998 Ten Year Solid Waste Plan. Comments were received from other agencies and municipalities.

The Committee focused on issues raised at the Public Hearing held on March 17, 1998. The Committee discussed the E & H Partnership Property located at 5600 Dower House Road, approximately 1 mile south of its intersection with Old Marlboro Pike and Pennsylvania Avenue (Route 4). This property was in the previous plan for a proposed recycling facility and was eliminated in the 1998 plan.

The Legislative Officer and the Acting Deputy County Attorney find it to be in proper legislative form. The Acting County Auditor has determined that there should not be any negative fiscal impact on the County.

The Committee amended the plan by adding the technical changes transmitted by the Department of Environmental Resources. Language was also added to Section III Solid Waste Collection Systems on page V-3 regarding the once-a-week trash collection service study. (Technical changes are attached to this summary).

**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

## **Technical changes to the Proposed 1998 Ten Year Solid Waste Plan**

**Change 1. Beginning on Page I-7 amend the section describing the County Health Department to read as follows:**

**The County Health Department**, through its Environmental [Issues] Engineering Program, is charged with the responsibility of maintaining surveillance of all County solid waste disposal systems to safeguard the public health against potential threats from environmental deterioration. Specific activities include:

1. Responding to citizen complaints concerning the improper and illegal disposal of solid waste and associated public health issues.
2. Inspection of all vehicles desiring a solid waste or recyclable collection license and registration to reduce the nuisance created by improperly equipped collection trucks.
3. Licensing of septage collection vehicles.
4. Review of solid waste acceptance facility plans.
5. Inspection of sanitary landfills, recycling facilities, [and] rubblefills and sewage sludge storage and utilization sites.
6. Field sampling and laboratory analysis of surface and ground waters of the County. [(Groundwater sampling may not be done in areas where residents have public water provided.)]
7. Cooperating with the County and municipal governments concerning establishing or upgrading their solid waste management systems.
8. Providing information on disposal techniques to citizens, engineering firms and government agencies.
9. Instituting legal action to abate potential health hazards resulting from solid waste problems when other measures have failed to obtain satisfactory results.

**Change 2. On Page II-8, amend Section II. Municipalities and Government Properties to read as follows:**

Figure 2-5 illustrates the location of the twenty-[six] seven incorporated municipalities in Prince George's County. The location of the major government facilities and parklands in the County are shown in Figure 2-6. The Towns and other government institutions are responsible for collecting their own solid waste; however, these entities utilize the County's disposal facilities, must comply

with the County's waste regulations and are a part of this Solid Waste Plan. Table 2-3 shows the 1990 Census population for the municipalities in Prince George's County.

**Change 3. On Page II-14, amend Table 2-5 Zoning requirements relating to solid waste management activities in industrial and residential zones, to include a footnote for the Waste Material Separation and Processing Facility in I-2 zone, as follows:**

5) Subject to Section 27-475.05, including a requirement of a minimum of 25 acres.

**Change 4. On Page III-2, last sentence, amend to read as follows:**

These measures do not [effect] affect the flow of construction and demolition material to private facilities.

**Change 5. On Page III-3, amend Table 3-2, Municipal Waste Deliveries, Calendar Year 1996, to show the quantity of waste generated by University Park as follows:**

Town of University Park.....[9119] 919

**Change 6. On Page III-8, amend the first sentence of Subsection 6. Land Clearing Materials to read as follows:**

The Environmental [Issues] Engineering Program of the Division of Environmental Health processes burning requests in connection with land clearing operations.

**Change 7. Beginning on Page III-9 amend Subsection III. Acceptance Facilities to read as follows:**

### **III. Acceptance Facilities**

An acceptance facility is a sanitary landfill, rubblefill, processing facility, transfer station, incinerator or any other type of facility that accepts solid waste for disposal, treatment processing, composting, compacting, or the transfer to another acceptance facility. All solid waste acceptance facilities must have the appropriate zoning, including Special Exception, if necessary, prior to inclusion into this Plan. A State Permit shall not be issued for an acceptance facility which is not included in this Plan.

Prince George's County presently relies on the sanitary landfill method to dispose of municipal solid waste. The two facilities are Brown Station Road and Sandy Hill landfills. The locations of these landfills and the other waste acceptance facilities are shown in Figure 3-1. The siting of new facilities is governed by the County's zoning ordinance and this Plan.

The sanitary landfills cannot accept the following materials: acids, diseased animal carcasses, automobiles, caustics, batteries, whole metal drums and tanks, explosives, [ tanks,] pesticides, paint, poisons, radioactive materials, scrap tires, septage, infectious medical waste, liquids or materials

containing free liquids of any type and truckloads of yard material. Additionally, the landfills do not accept petroleum waste or petroleum contaminated soils characterized as hazardous or containing free flowing liquids. The landfills will accept petroleum contaminated soils without the aforementioned characteristics. The Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill will only accept contaminated soils from County-owned facilities. The disposal responsibility for other contaminated soils rests with the landowner or the party responsible for the spill.

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\* \* \* \* \*

**Change 8. Beginning on Page III-27 amend Subsection 2. Sewage Sludge and Septage to read as follows:**

## **2. Sewage Sludge and Septage**

The County, with the assistance of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, has the overall responsibility for the management of sewage sludge that is, or will be, generated at wastewater treatment plants within the County, or at regional facilities used by the County.

Sludge is a generic term used to describe the residual solids arising from the treatment of water and wastewater. Sludges can be either liquid or semisolid, depending upon the amount of water removed prior to disposal. Water treatment sludges which are quite gelatinous and difficult to de-water consist primarily of sediment and chemical coagulants used to precipitate the solids from raw water. Wastewater sludges which are typically high in organic matter, consist of grit particles, organic solids, cultured microorganisms, chemical coagulants, and inorganic precipitants.

Prince George's County recognizes that a comprehensive sludge management program requires a balance of technologies and approaches to assure safe and efficient sludge disposal. Wherever practical, however, Prince George's County promotes the beneficial reuse of wastewater sludges through agriculture, silviculture, or other uses. The County particularly endorses the use of subsurface injection as a means of applying sludge with minimal disruption of farming practice and the surrounding communities. Further handling of sludge in the County is addressed in greater detail in Appendix D and the County's Ten Year Water and Sewage Plan.

The County Health Department inspects and licenses septage vehicles. Approximately 55 vehicles (with capacities ranging between 50-1500 gallons) are licensed annually. Following licensure, the trucks may be permitted by the WSSC to use the public sewage system for disposal. [Septage is also managed by WSSC.] Septage is disposed of in one of three manholes located in the County. [As of 1992, WSSC permitted 68 trucks (capacities ranging between 50-1500 gallons) to dispose of septage.]

**Change 9. Beginning on Page III-29 amend Subsection A. Hazardous Waste to read as follows:**

**A. Hazardous Waste**

State-permitted salvage, recovery, and hauling companies provide hazardous waste collection and disposal services to the generators of hazardous waste in the County.

The State has primary responsibility for administering and enforcing hazardous waste regulatory programs, subject to the approval of the appropriate EPA Regional Office. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has developed a plan required under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for the management of solid and hazardous wastes within the State. In the event of a hazardous waste spill, the County Fire Department, with assistance from the MDE, is responsible for ensuring the material is removed and disposed of properly. At the present time, the County Health Officer is responsible for providing advice on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste. In addition, the County's Department of Environmental Resources is providing educational services to hazardous waste generators about proper disposal alternatives.

The Department of Environmental Resources also conducts household hazardous waste collection days. During these events, County residents can bring, free of charge, household hazardous waste (e.g. pesticides, solvents, oil-based paints) to a designated location in the County. At this location a properly licensed hazardous waste management firm packs the wastes and transports them to a licensed disposal/treatment facility (located outside Prince George's County). The collection days are situated at different sites throughout the County for the convenience of the citizens. The feasibility of establishing a permanent household hazardous waste drop-off site is presently under study. Several suitable locations within the County are being considered, including a site near the existing Brown Station Road Landfill. It is hoped that a site can be opened during this planning period.

**Change 10. On page IV-11 amend subsection C. Sandy Hill Landfill to read as follows:**

**C. Sandy Hill Landfill**

The water sampling program at the Sandy Hill landfill includes [twenty-two] eighteen ground water monitoring wells along the perimeter of the fill site, [four] and one surface water station[s] on-site[, and three surface water stations off-site]. Waste Management Inc., operators of the Sandy Hill landfill, obtain daily[, and quarterly surface water samples and [,] semiannual, and/or annual groundwater [and surface water] samples depending on the particular parameter measured and

sampling location. The groundwater monitoring program at Sandy Hill is in accordance with the Subtitle D program as adopted by the State of Maryland.

**Change 11. Beginning on Page IV-22, amend Subsection IX. A describing Primary Screening in Landfill Siting Criteria to read as follows:**

**A. Primary Screening**

Primary screening is applied to eliminate areas that are unsuitable for hosting a solid waste management facility, including:

- Existing housing: Established subdivisions can be identified and eliminated using the most recent Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning (M-NCPPC) Census Population and Housing Distribution[ map (at 1" = 3000' scale ). Housing not identified at this scale can be considered in subsequent screening stages].
- Floodplain and wetland areas: Large areas of the 100-year floodplain and wetlands can be eliminated by utilizing the Maryland Non-Tidal Wetland Inventory Maps and FEMA Floodplain Maps [Water Resources Inventory Map prepared by the M-NCPPC (1" = 3000' scale)].
- Restricted airport zones: Airport zones include airport property and property within the Federal Aviation Administration's restricted zones. For landfills, FAA Order Number 5200, the restricted zones are within 10,000 feet of turbojet aircraft runways and within 5000 feet of piston type aircraft runways.
- Parklands: Parklands owned and operated by the M-NCPPC, State and Federal Government (see Figure 2-6) are identified by the most recent M-NCPPC "Park and Recreation Inventory - Prince George's County" and the Prince George's County Street Locator" prepared by the ADC of Alexandria, Inc.
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas: The Critical Area included the Bay and all of its tributaries to the head of tide, and all land and water within 1000 feet of heads of tide or within 1000 feet of wetlands designated under Title 9 of the Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. According to the 1986 criterion, promulgated by the Chesapeake Critical Area Commission, solid or hazardous waste collection or disposal facilities are not permitted in the Critical Area, unless no environmentally acceptable alternative exists outside the Area and are needed to exist an existing water quality or wastewater management problem. Prince George's County has no requirements or plans to site a facility in the Critical Areas.
- Drinking water reservoir watersheds: There is one drinking water reservoir located in Prince

George's County.

- Historic sites, Historic Resources, Historic Districts: These properties are identified in the Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan and in Figure 4-6.
  - Sensitive use areas: These areas include schools, churches, cemeteries, nursing homes and hospitals and can be identified by a street locator map and United States Geological Survey topographic maps.
  - Unique plant or animal habitats/Areas of Critical State or County Concern: This criterion includes botanical, zoological, and ornithological habitat areas noted on County Master Plans or State Department of Natural Resources Sensitive Species Project Review Areas [the M-NCPPC Unique Natural Features Map]. Also, the criterion includes County and State designated Areas of Critical Concern as identified in this Plan.
- [ • High water table areas: A Maryland Department of State Planning of high water table can be utilized to identify those areas with a seasonal high water table.]

**Change 12. On Page V-3, Section III. Solid Waste Collection Systems, amend the last paragraph to read as follows:**

Separate collection of recyclables and yard waste has substantially reduced the amount of solid waste collected each week. In addition, under the current collection system, as many as seven trucks might collect from a home in a single week. There are two trash collections, one recycling collection, one yard waste collection, and a homeowner could also arrange for a bulky waste, appliance or tire collection. Waste collection is more expensive than disposal and the County will examine ways to reduce this expense including switching to once-a-week trash collection service. In addition to providing economical service, the examination will take into account the feasibility of reducing fees if services are reduced, the need for uniformity of collection services, the need for competitive procurement of collection services and the County Charter requirement that multi-year contracts must be approved by the County Council.

**Change 13. Throughout the Plan, replace the word "sludge" with the word "biosolids."**