

WISCONSIN'S LANDFILL SITING PROCESS

(typically requires 3 to 5 years)

INITIAL SITE INSPECTION

- Purpose is to obtain a preliminary evaluation from the WDNR on the potential of a property to comply with regulatory locational criteria and performance standards.

INITIAL SITE REPORT

- Identifies the anticipated limits of filling, landfill site life, approximate disposal capacity, along with preliminary base and final grades.
- Report also contains information on surrounding land use and includes a summary of the regional geotechnical characteristics.

INITIAL SITE REPORT OPINION

- Opinion letter is used by the WDNR to identify any known constraints to the feasibility of the project.
- The Department also uses the opinion letter to identify any site specific information that needs to be included in the feasibility report.

FEASIBILITY REPORT

- Contains the comprehensive geologic and hydrogeologic investigation that includes baseline groundwater quality data; a preliminary engineering design that includes an environmental monitoring plan; an environmental assessment; documentation of the need for the proposed landfill; and an analysis of the alternatives to landfilling.
- Completeness Determination: after the WDNR determines that they have sufficient information to complete their review of the feasibility report, the Department publishes a notice in the local newspapers which includes a preliminary environmental assessment for the project. The notice invites submission of written comments and also describes the methods by which a hearing may be requested.

HEARINGS

- If requested, there are two types of hearings: Information Hearing (more typical) and Contested Case Hearing (rare).
- If an Information Hearing is requested, it is conducted within the County that the proposed facility is located.
- Following the hearing, the WDNR considers comments provided at the hearing in their final review of the feasibility report.

FEASIBILITY DETERMINATION

- After the WDNR determines that the project is feasible, and that it should provide for satisfactory solid waste disposal, the Department issues a Feasibility Determination.
- A favorable determination allows the plan of operation to be submitted.

PLAN OF OPERATION

- The submittal must address the conditions set forth in the feasibility report and any addenda, the conditions contained in the feasibility determination, and Chapter NR 514 Administrative Code.
- A plan of operation report includes the final engineering design, design calculations, details on the phases of construction, proposed construction documentation, sequencing of operations, daily operations, monitoring, closure design, long-term care of the proposed landfill after closure, and a detailed estimate of the costs for construction, operation, closure and long-term care of the landfill.
- Completeness Determination: after the WDNR determines that they have sufficient information to complete their review of the plan of operation, they will issue a notice that the submittal is complete and that they will complete their review within 90 days.

PLAN OF OPERATION APPROVAL

- Upon completing their review and determining that the plan of operation for the proposed landfill is consistent with Wisconsin's Solid Waste regulations, the WDNR will issue a Conditional Plan of Operation Approval.
- The approval contains a number of standard conditions and may also contain some site specific conditions relative to minor changes in the proposed design, construction, and/or environmental monitoring.
- The Conditional Plan of Operation Approval allows construction of the facility to proceed.

CONSTRUCTION

- Construction includes bidding, contractor selection, and construction of the initial landfill cell and supporting infrastructure.
- Construction items include the landfill cell, surface water and erosion control features, leachate collection and management, electrical controls for the landfill, access roads, and support buildings.
- During construction, an independent technician will be onsite documenting that the project is being built in accordance with the documents and conditions of approval that WDNR provided.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION

- After construction is complete, the owner must prepare a report describing the construction of the initial landfill cell, detailed surveys of all features of construction, field and laboratory soils tests, and complete photo documentation.
- The Construction Documentation Report is then submitted to WDNR for review.

LICENSE ISSUANCE

- After the Construction Documentation Report has been reviewed and approved by WDNR and the proofs of financial responsibility for closure and long-term care implemented, a final inspection of the constructed cell is made before a license is issued.

SITE OPERATION

- After the landfill license is received, waste ash placement in the new cell can proceed.