

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Landfill Information Session**  
**4 p.m. Thursday, January 26, 2006**  
**County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg, NC**

Vice Chair Gholston reconvened the meeting, which is a an information session on permitting landfills. Commissioners in attendance: Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Chairman J.D. Willis and Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

Vice Chair Gholston introduced Mr. Ed Mussler, NCDENR Division of Waste Management, Branch Head of Solid Waste Permitting, and briefly outlined his credentials.

Mr. Mussler described the permitting process, which is his area of expertise. He distributed a flow chart on the permitting process and an explanation of State requirements for permitting municipal solid waste landfills.

Mr. Mussler said although there are State landfill permits that were challenged in court over the years, the State has always prevailed.

Asked by Commissioner Jordan if there is a permitting process for leachate, Mr. Mussler said there are none. He said the landfill owner usually does one of three things – hauls the leachate off the site, reuses it on site or contracts with a municipal solid waste operation to process the leachate. Mr. Mussler said leachate is not considered hazardous waste although it gets stronger when it gets older, but there is less of it.

Mr. Mussler discussed the current technology of a lined landfill, how it is constructed and how leachate is collected. He said leachate leakage is minimal if at all.

Mr. Mussler explained the difference between a lined and unlined landfill, with the vast majority of lined landfills coming on line in the State since 1993. He said there are 42 lined landfills now operating in the State, while 128 unlined landfills have been closed. He said there is no documented release of anything hazardous material to date from a lined landfill. He said provided appropriate steps are taken to prevent water from getting in, then none would get out.

He discussed the process involved in monitoring groundwater and explained that the frequency of the monitoring depends on how fast the groundwater moves.

Responding to a question by Commissioner Alford regarding substances that fall out of trucks, Mr. Mussler said enforcement is the responsibility of the DMV.

Commissioner Butler asked if the permitting process involves truck traffic and its impact on road structure. Mr. Mussler said that issue is a legitimate concern, but it doesn't fall under the authority of the State permitting agency, which is responsible for the inside operation only.

Commissioner Jordan asked if lined landfills were safe and leak-proof. Mr. Mussler said the latest information on how long landfill liners would last is in excess of 100 years. He said that by re-circulating leachate, it helps break down those things that are harmful. He added that the technology is not perfect, but a lined landfill is better than an unlined landfill.

Mr. Mussler said a lined landfill is monitored for 30 years after it is closed, and the best case scenario would be no indication of a leak. He added that if a problem did occur, it would have to be rectified, and the State would possibly require additional monitoring beyond the 30 years.

Mr. Mussler said North Carolina was one of the first States to adopt stringent rules and regulations regarding the permitting and operation of landfills, and those rule are even more stringent than the Federal rules.

There was general discussion about landfill capacity and where the solid waste is coming from and the process involved in siting a landfill.

Mr. Mussler said today's population creates more solid waste than it did a decade ago, and it is always preferable to recycle, reuse and reduce. He said that has not happened, and there are no penalties for increasing the amount of solid waste or incentives for reducing it.

Mr. Mussler said he is confident that his agency would know if terms and conditions of a landfill operation were being violated. He explained that the landfill business represents "big bucks," and it would not be in the best interest of an owner to get involved in activities that would generate violations.

Mr. Mussler said it is the governing body that determines the length of time the landfill would operate and the terms of the franchise. He said the length of operation outlined in the franchise stands regardless of the tonnage accepted.

Mr. Mussler said a change in ownership or significant change in the landfill footprint, which would be 10 percent or more, would require the permitting process to begin all over again.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Betty Blue Gholston  
Vice Chair