



FACT SHEET – Mine Site Landfills

State landfill regulations were revised by the State Environmental Commission on July 23, 1992. A new definition for Class III landfills was adopted. A Class III site is a land disposal site that does not accept municipal solid waste or regulated hazardous waste. Specific location, design, operational, and monitoring requirements were established for Class III sites. However, if a Class III site accepts only inert waste, NDEP may adopt less restrictive regulatory standards for the site, eg. reduced design and monitoring requirements. If a Class III site meets the following conditions listed in NAC 444.731, the site may be eligible for a Class III waiver:

- All waste placed in the landfill is incidental to the industrial operation;
- The landfill is located on property controlled by the operator of the industrial operation; and
- The landfill will not receive any hazardous materials, as defined by NRS 459.7024, and is unlikely to produce pollutants or contaminants that may degrade the waters of the state.

Waiver Application

A waiver does not exempt a site from regulation, and is not a formal Class III landfill permit. It simply means that if the site complies with the conditions listed above, most Class III regulatory requirements are waived. Application for a waiver must include a scaled site map, a description of the type and amount of waste, and a plan for regular maintenance of the site. Compliance with the conditions of the waiver will be enforced. All new Class III landfill sites that meet the waiver eligibility criteria above must submit a waiver application prior to starting operation.

Waste Characterization

In no case shall a Class III landfill receive materials that meet the definition of a hazardous waste, or waste that could produce pollutants or contaminants that may degrade the waters of the state. Several examples of waste that would be considered acceptable, as well as unacceptable, for disposal under a Class III waiver application are provided as follows:

Acceptable Waste: Scrap metals, untreated wood wastes, paper products, empty bags, properly managed (thoroughly drained) empty containers, office and lunch room wastes, oil filters that have been pierced, dismantled, or punctured and hot drained for twelve hours, or the excess oil removed by crushing or another equivalent method that substantially eliminates most of the oil from the filter, whole tires, uncontaminated piping and liner material and other wastes approved by the Solid Waste Management Authority that meet the regulatory requirements.

Unacceptable Waste: Hazardous wastes, liquid wastes (as defined by the paint filter test), household hazardous waste, undrained used oil filters, hydrocarbon contaminated soils exceeding 100 ppm TPH, contaminated wipers & rags, florescent light tubes, PCB wastes, vehicle batteries, unpunctured aerosol cans, highly putrescible wastes including dead animals, medical/infectious waste, and exempt small quantity generator waste that is not regulated as hazardous waste due to its small quantity, eg. spent cleaning solvents.

Maintenance Program

A maintenance program should be defined in the waiver application that includes the following provisions:

- A soil cover applied weekly and compacted to a minimum of 6 inches, to control litter, vectors, and odors.
- Restriction of public access, and erection of signs identifying the site and indicating acceptable and unacceptable wastes.
- Control of litter.
- Prohibition of the burning of solid waste.
- Control of storm water run-on, provision for erosion control, and protection of any surface water from pollutants.

Landfill Closure

A layer of suitable cover material compacted to a minimum uniform depth of 24 inches must be placed on any surface that represents the final grade of the landfill. This cover must be graded to allow for proper drainage of surface runoff.

Contact

For additional information contact the Solid Waste Branch at (775) 687-9472.