

NSWMA expresses concern about combustible dust rules

Jan. 20 -- A national trade group representing solid waste management companies is concerned about possible new federal rules regarding combustible dust and questions whether the industry should be included in any regulations.

The National Solid Wastes Management Association filed comments with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and said the agency previously indicated the solid waste industry has no history of "combustible dust events" at transfer stations, material recovery facilities and landfills.

OSHA is expected to propose new rules later this year, the NSWMA said, and the trade group is concerned that solid waste facility owners could incur what it calls significant and unnecessary capital expenses to comply.

"NSWMA has been working on the combustible dust issue for years, and we recently met with OSHA to express our concerns. We expect to continue our involvement in this issue as OSHA moves towards proposing final rules," said NSWMA's President and CEO Bruce J. Parker.

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