

Rawlins asks for extension on landfill deadlines

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Published: Wednesday, December 7, 2011 2:07 AM MST

The Rawlins City Council agreed Tuesday to request an 18-month extension for submission of the permit application and completion of the landfill operations and closure plans with the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council.

The City Council spoke with its Department of Environmental Quality representative, Becky Dietrich, on a conference call during the meeting. The new deadlines were developed through talks with Rawlins Public Works Director Blaine Frandsen and City Manager Steve Golnar, she said.

Dietrich agreed to present the extension to the Environmental Quality Council at its January meeting.

"If granted, this will be a one-time extension," Dietrich said. "If any of these new deadlines are missed the DEQ will issue an in-violation order and a fine will be assessed against the city of Rawlins."

In its letter to the EQC, the city requested the extension because of the turnover in personnel as the previous public works director retired in July and the landfill supervisor left a month later.

In addition, money wasn't allocated for the development of the landfill operations and closure plans in the 2011-12 budget, and a budget amendment would be required in the next few months, Golnar said. The extension gives the city time to acquire more funding for the implementation of the operations and closure plans.

In the original agreement, Rawlins was to have the permit application and operations and closure plans ready by March 1, 2012. The extension, which Dietrich supported, requested a new. 3, 2013.

On Tuesday, the City Council approved a request for qualifications from firms to write the deadline of Sept operations and closure plan for the Rawlins landfill. The city stopped burying municipal solid waste in the landfill in February and has a permit to bury construction and demolition materials at the landfill through 2016. The two plans cover how the city plans to close the municipal solid waste cells, and how to keep operating the cells for construction and demolition materials. It also spells out how the city will run its transfer station for municipal solid waste.

If the extension is approved, the City Council will contract with a firm in March. The final operations and closure plans are submitted in March 2013, and the permit application is submitted in July 2013.

In a related issue, the City Council approved a bid from Sage Creek Excavating to continue hauling Rawlins' municipal solid waste to the Casper landfill through February 2013. Sage Creek was the only company to submit a bid.

The new agreement starts Jan. 1 and the cost to ship one ton of trash increases from \$22 a ton to \$24 a ton. In addition, the city agreed to pay the difference when diesel fuel costs more than \$4 a gallon. The term in the old agreement was the city paid the difference when diesel was over \$3 a gallon. The old contract ends on Dec. 31.