

Report to the Joint Minerals, Business, and Economic Development Interim Committee

Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Cease and Transfer Program Landfill Prioritization and Cost Estimates

October 2018



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1.0 Background Information

Due in large part to the groundwater contamination caused by unlined landfills, landfill operating costs have risen beyond the financial capabilities of many local governments in Wyoming. Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning (ISWMP) completed in 2009 indicates that shared waste management strategies, especially shared landfills, can help control rising costs. As a result, many small landfill operators plan to transfer waste to more cost effective regional landfills, and then close their local landfills.

In 2013, the Legislature passed HB No. 0066, Enrolled Act No. 114, which created the Municipal Solid Waste Cease and Transfer Program (Program). Under this Program, the Department would work in cooperation with the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) to provide funding assistance of eligible project costs for landfill operators who wish to cease receipt of municipal solid waste and transfer it to regional landfills. In October of 2013, OSLI promulgated rules for the Program and developed an application process.

In December 2013, the Department prepared a prioritized list of qualified projects for the Program which the Legislature approved in Enrolled Act 24 in the 2014 Session. That list included 52 potentially eligible projects with a total estimated cost of \$96,246,800. To date, the Legislature has provided a total of \$45,904,000 in funding for the program implementation; \$35,419,000 for grants and \$10,485,000 for loans.

This 2018 report provides an update of the prioritized list of cease and transfer projects, as well as an update on the status of the Program.

2.0 Prioritized List

In 2013, the Department was asked to prepare a prioritized list (Table 1) for the Program. In order to merge the needs for waste transfer and landfill closure into a single prioritized list, the Department considered the following factors:

- a. Date transfer is needed (when the landfill will be full or the operator will need to cease disposal).
- b. Ranking on the Landfill Remediation Program prioritization list.
- c. Evaluation of community's relative need for transfer considering:
 - i. Existence of available transfer capability; and
 - ii. Whether improvements to existing infrastructure are needed.
- d. Is the project consistent with the local ISWMP plan?
- e. Does the operator already have a transfer or closure permit or are they close to having one? In other words, is the project nearly "shovel ready"?

Based on these criteria and in consideration of additional information provided by operators, the Department revised the following priority list consisting of 21 projects, including six (6) transfer facilities and fifteen (15) landfill closures (Table 1):

Table 1			
Prioritized List for Transfer Facilities and Landfill Capping			
Revised October 2018			
Priority	Facility	Transfer or Closure	Estimated Cost
1	Upton, Town of	Transfer	\$1,300,000
2	Newcastle, City of	Transfer	\$1,200,000
3	Moorcroft, Town of - Moorcroft #3	Transfer	\$1,500,000
4	Eden Valley SWDD	Closure	\$1,581,000
5	Glenrock	Closure	\$1,600,000
6	Big Horn County SWDD - North #2	Transfer	\$1,500,000
7	Thermopolis, Town of	Transfer	\$2,000,000
8	Hulett, Town of	Closure	\$1,088,000
9	Upper Platte River SWDD - Saratoga	Closure	\$2,300,000
10	Rawlins, City of	Closure	\$780,000
11	Thermopolis, Town of	Closure	\$2,500,000
12	Baggs SWDD	Closure	\$2,250,000
13	Big Horn County SWDD - South	Closure	\$2,400,000
14	Big Horn County SWDD - North #2	Closure	\$1,700,000
15	Newcastle, City of	Closure	\$1,100,000
*16	Lincoln County - Cokeville	Closure	\$1,000,000
17	Uinta County Solid Waste - Bridger Valley	Closure	\$4,000,000
18	LaGrange, Town of	Closure	\$1,400,000
19	Moorcroft, Town of	Closure	\$500,000
20	Upton, Town of	Closure	\$1,500,000
21	Park County Landfills – TS Rolling Stock	Transfer	\$351,000
Total Estimated Remaining Project Costs			\$33,550,000

*This facility was added to the priority list at the entity’s request. Upon meeting with the Department to determine if Lincoln County – Cokeville met Program eligibility requirements, this facility was deemed eligible and placed at number 16.

3.0 Changes Made to Prioritized List

The Department’s annual evaluation of the priority list resulted in a number of changes. The changes were primarily from projects being removed from the list because the project received funding under the program. Table 2 below describes those projects that were removed from the Priority List:

Table 2 Facilities Removed from Prioritized List			
Priority	Facility	Transfer or Closure	Reason for Removal
#6	Uinta County – Bridger Valley	Transfer Station	Funded December 2017
#7	Lincoln County – Thayne	Closure	Funded April 2018
#8	Fremont County – Shoshoni	Closure	Funded October 2018
#11	Ten Sleep SWDD	Closure	Funded October 2018
#12	Wheatland	Closure	Funded December 2017
#14	Central Weston County SWDD – Osage	Closure	Funded October 2018
#16 & #22	High Country Joint Powers Board – Hanna	Transfer Station and Closure	Funded February 2018

4.0 Program Update

It is important to note that the Department has a limited ability to influence which landfill operators will apply for funding first. Some are better prepared than others and the actual schedule will vary somewhat from the prioritized list. In addition, landfill operators who are not on the current list may change their plans and decide to close. The pace of transfer station construction and landfill capping will be largely dependent upon the availability of funds at the State and local levels. The Department will continue its efforts to assist landfill operators.

As of October 15, 2018, twenty-seven (27) projects have been funded under the Program; eleven (11) transfer stations and sixteen (16) landfill closures. The amount of funds provided by

the State Lands Investment Board for projects totals \$41,269,890; with \$36,096,555 being allocated in grants and \$5,173,335 in loans. In addition, beginning in 2017, projects that received loans through the Program have begun repayments on the loan component. To date, four (4) entities have made loan payments totaling \$75,082. Additionally, six (6) projects that were completed came in \$1,900,925 under budget; with \$1,490,916 returning in grant, and \$409,208 returning in loan to the Program. Including these funds that have been returned to the Program, a total of \$6,609,317 remains in the Program accounts; with \$813,362 in grants and \$5,795,955 in loans.

The current estimated costs for the remaining projects on the priority list totals \$33,550,000 with six (6) transfer projects for a total of \$7,851,000 and fifteen (15) closures for a total of \$25,699,000. The Department expects these costs to be refined as engineer estimates are provided.

In conclusion, the Department continues to conduct outreach to entities in an effort to ensure that upon entry, programmatic requirements can be met and local concerns regarding projects are addressed. Additionally, the Department continues to work with the Wyoming Solid Waste and Recycling Association and the Governor's Citizens Advisory Committee on Solid Waste to find solutions to statewide challenges.