



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes August 1, 2013

Companies with attendees: KMG, CSI, Republic Services, American Disposal, Broad Run Recycling/IDS, ESI/PDS, VHI

Guests: David Biderman, National Solid Waste Management Association (NSWMA); Mike Berlin, Covanta Fairfax, Inc.

Phone Participants: Charlie & Son, Trash Away, Waste Management, Patriot Disposal, Bates Trucking, EnviroSolutions/PDS

County Staff: Joyce Doughty, Pamela Gratton, Dynita Glenn, Alex Castillo, Don Green, Beck Halstead, Jessica Smithberger, Amanda Blankenship

The meeting began at 5:04 pm.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce Doughty greeted everyone and welcomed the teleconference participants.

Announcements/Updates

New Organization for SWMP – Joyce explained that her new title is “ Assistant Deputy Director, Solid Waste Management Program.” She further explained the new departmental organization that became official on July 1: Solid Waste Management was previously 2 separate divisions that have now combined into one large organization with three main branches and one Deputy Department Director (Steve Aitcheson). The division is now officially called the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP).

SWMP Events Calendar –Document Shredding is on August 17 and Electric Sunday is on August 18. The calendar is available online (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/intro-programs.htm>). The last business hazardous waste CESQG event is on Wednesday, October 2 (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphazcomm.htm#clean-up>). These events occur three times a year, and the County hopes to increase participation. Companies were asked to provide their commercial customers with information about the events and encourage them to use the program.

Enforcement Updates

Update to Chapter 109.1 – A handout was given as a summary of proposed changes. The SWMP took the proposed changes to the Board Environmental Committee last year where a



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suggestion was made to add a requirement for businesses to recycle bottles and cans. Staff was tasked to research the impact this would have on businesses as well as the reaction businesses would have to the proposed requirement. The study was comprised of three tasks: survey businesses, research neighboring jurisdictions, and estimate the quantity of bottles and cans that would be recycled. A few results were the following: 66% of businesses that responded currently recycle bottles and cans, and 97% stated they were willing to recycle them; two neighboring jurisdictions require bottle and can recycling, and they observed a 9-12% increase in recycling rates; and an estimated 161 million beverage containers per year are disposed in trash instead of being recycled (about 13,000 tons).

Another survey for food service businesses is currently online and will close in August. Results will be brought to the Board Environmental Committee in October.

Q: Will no action be taken until the Board reviews the results? How will action be taken/a decision be made?

A: The issue will be raised in a public hearing and may or may not be approved. Joyce explained the structure of the Environmental Committee – all ten Board members participate, but no formal actions are taken as it is a setting in which they can ask questions and discuss topics more freely. Pamela stated that the SWMP is open to questions, comments, and concerns that companies may have before the meeting takes place.

Identification on Collection Containers (dumpsters, roll-off boxes, compactors) – Information about the types of materials inside should be placed on containers (trash vs. recycling), as well as reflective materials and company information, including business name and phone number.

Box (BX) numbers are required on all dumpsters, roll-offs, and compactors. Pamela noted that it is not abundantly clear in the facility rules and regulations or Waste Delivery/Disposal Agreements that BX numbers are required; however, the issue will likely be added to the Code. She recommended that companies start looking at their containers to ensure that the appropriate information is located on the container.

Q: A question was raised about containers that are vacant of identification.

One meeting attendant suggested that brokers were responsible.

A: Pamela confirmed that one instance of unidentified containers does involve brokers.

Q: Is the BX number a County-issued number?

A: Yes, it correlates to a tare weight in our system, which facilitates accurate billing and streamlines the process on the scales.

Q: Do containers that do not go to Fairfax County facilities need to have BX numbers?

A: No, it is not necessary to have a BX number if they do not come to Fairfax County facilities (example: containers for CDD waste).

Recycling signs must be present on trucks; they must be on both sides of the truck and have the phrase "Recycling Collection." Trucks that only have the word "Recycling" or the Mobius recycling symbol do not meet the requirement of the Code or Solid Waste Advisory 008-002. For commercial recycling collection, recycling signs on dumpsters are not sufficient; signs must be on the truck as well. All trucks designated for trash collection must be marked at the time that it is used for another purpose (recycling), otherwise no one can discern whether the vehicle is collecting trash or recycling.

Q: Is this a new change in policies?

A: No, it is not a new requirement.

Q: What is the amount of calls and complaints about commercial recycling trucks?

A: Beck Halstead estimated that complaints about unmarked recycling trucks represent about 1% of all recycling complaint calls, but the overall volume of calls is decreasing.

Q: Are signs only required for commercial recycling collection?

A: No, they are required for ALL recycling collection. There are a variety of options for signs, such as piano hinge signs that flip around to indicate recycling collection.

Q: Will these signs present a bigger hurdle to smaller haulers?

A: The SWMP will be enforcing this measure on all haulers, regardless of company size. The impact will not be severe, but enforcement action will occur, therefore this notice is meant to inform and warn companies to be prepared. Pamela Gratton informed companies that there is still time to bring concerns and recommendations to SWMP staff to determine what is best for everyone.

Recycling Program Updates

The Fairfax County recycling rate for 2012 was 51%, which was about 75,000 tons of recyclable materials. Joyce noted that while recycling rates and volumes have experienced growth, trash has remained flat, with neither significant growth nor decrease.

Q: Was the recycling number already there, and the increased rate only reflected a better ability to identify it?

A: Most likely no – Pamela explained that the SWMP compiles data from reports from CTOs and recycling facilities, taking careful efforts to avoid double counting.

Yard waste did not experience growth or above average tonnages, most likely since 2012 was mild regarding storms, the frequency and severity of which can affect yard waste tonnages.

Administrative Items

With the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, out-of-county waste prices changed to \$46 per ton at the I-66 Transfer Station and \$34 per ton at the I-95 Complex. Companies currently approved to bring out-of-county waste have automatically received the new rates on their

transactions. Other companies that wish to bring out-of-county waste must first request approval from the SWMP and provide estimated out-of-county quantities for the remainder of fiscal year 2014.

Please continue to send information about updated contacts as staff changes. It is essential to keep our records updated, especially so that the correct person can be reached in the event of emergencies or other occurrences.

Dynita Glenn asked companies to have drivers check that truck plates are present and that decals are current. Issues have recently occurred in which plates are not present or decals are expired. The \$75 penalty rate will be applied to all infractions.

For companies that receive daily transaction listings, please contact the LIS team before billing if there are any concerns when matching tickets to the report information. Requests can be made via email or phone.

Regarding BX stickers, drivers often choose to weigh in and out instead of taking time to get a BX number. Please inform drivers that it does not take long to get a BX number assigned.

Q: With regard to out-of-county price reductions, have you noticed any impact of the amount of material delivered to the Transfer Station vs. Covanta?

A: It's too early to determine.

Operational Items

Everything is currently functioning smoothly. Construction to replace a retaining wall at the I-66 Transfer Station will only have a minimal impact and should not hinder deliveries to the facility.

The safety team has expanded. Dennis Batts reports directly to the Deputy Department Director and one staff member is at each field location: Paul Wade at the Transfer Station, Sonny Poteat at the I-95 Complex, and Duane Hendricks at Newington. The team is watching hauler activity, especially speeding at the I-95 Complex. Please share with drivers that staff is monitoring conduct and that the SWMP has the authority to fine in accordance with the facility rules and regulations.

Sanitary District Announcements

No new petitions have been received.

Announcements

Mike Berlin, Covanta Fairfax, Inc., encouraged companies to call or email him if they have any issues with Covanta, and guaranteed that he would respond.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Next Meeting: November 7, 2013, Government Center – Room 2/3