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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Dexter R. Matthews, Director | Division of Waste Management | Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

April 10, 2006

Alvin Cagle
Landfill Manager
Alamance County
124 West Elm Street
Graham, NC 27253

Re: Request for Comments Regarding
Alamance County Swepsonville Landfill
Alamance County, North Carolina
Permit No. 01-02
Doc ID No. RCO216

Dear Alvin:

The following is information regarding the above referenced subject as requested in your letter to this office dated March 2, 2006. Thank you for the opportunity to provide some guidance for the potential post-closure development of the Swepsonville Landfill. The Division recognizes the potential benefits and encourages the controlled development of the areas surrounding the closed landfill.

Although the current regulations do not address buffer requirements following closure of a landfill facility, certain concerns should be identified and addressed in the early planning stage that relate to the proximity of the landfill to potential residential development. Below are responses to your questions presented in your letter referenced above, which are restated below in italics. Please note that the information is not regulatory and is intended as guidance. However, the County may wish to consider more stringent buffers based on specific knowledge of the project.

1. *How much buffer area from the toe of the waste to a new property line should the County maintain?*

   The current regulations (NC Solid Waste Management Rule .1624(a)(3)) establishes a 300 feet minimum buffer between solid waste and a property line.

2. *What is the required separation from waste to private water supplies?*

   The current regulations for municipal solid waste landfills (Rule .1624(a)(3)) establishes a 500 feet minimum buffer between solid waste and private residences and wells.

3. *What is the required separation from waste to private sewage systems?*

The Solid Waste Rules do not address buffers between solid waste and private sewage systems. Since private sewage systems have the potential to adversely affect the ground water monitoring results at the closed landfill, the County may wish to consider an increased buffer area and establishing a monitoring program that will determine problems that occur from both on-site and off-site sources.

4. *What is the required separation from waste to residence or structures?*

   The current regulations for municipal solid waste landfills (Rule .1624(a)(3)) establishes a 500 feet minimum buffer between solid waste and private residences and wells.

5. *What would be the requirements of an access road from Alfred Road through the existing landfill?*

   We cannot recommend construction of an access road for general traffic through the landfill. The initial capital and long term maintenance costs due to settling are likely to justify routing an access road around the landfill.

6. *What other requirements or recommendations should the County consider?*

   The County may consider fencing or some other type of barrier around the site to control general public access to the closed landfill.

   Should the project become a reality, the County should also consider placing and sampling ground water and gas monitoring wells in the buffer area before any construction activity occurs. The initial sampling results would establish background levels for parameters of concern. Sampling should then continue in order to monitor conditions in the buffer area.

Again, thank you for allowing our comments regarding the potential land use surrounding the closed Swepsonville Landfill. Please call me (919) 508-8498 with any questions regarding this letter or wish to arrange a meeting to further discuss the matter.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey H. Little
Environmental Engineer
Solid Waste Section

c: Paul Crissman, DWM
Ed Mussler, DWM
Hugh Jernigan, DWM