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Ann Q. Duncan
Assistant Secretary for Administration

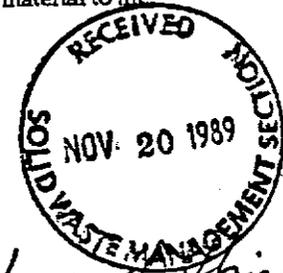


TO: Paul Crissman DATE: 11/17/89
Solid Waste - Oberlin Rd.

- PLEASE:
- Draft a reply for the Secretary's signature and return to me.
 - Draft a reply for the Governor's signature and return to me.
 - Draft a reply for my signature and return to me.
 - Reply, noting the letter was referred to you by me (with a copy to the Secretary's Office).
 - For your information.
 - Take appropriate action.
 - Recommend appropriate action.
 - Assign to someone for review and response.
 - Approve.

- AND:
- Return the attached material to me
 - Keep for your files.

REMARKS:



Paul,
Is this the type of thing we will be offering technical help for in the near future? Just wonder if they are all aware of our initiatives — maybe irrelevant — I just wonder about it —
AD

3 Counties Agree To Seek Landfill Feasibility Study

By ELIZABETH HUNTER
Citizen Correspondent

SPRUCE PINE — Commissioners from Mitchell, Yancey and Avery counties signed a "resolution of joint cooperation," the first step toward development of a regional landfill, at a meeting here Wednesday night.

Madison County sent representatives to the meeting, and may join the compact later.

The resolution "recognizes and supports the idea of working jointly ... toward the siting, construction and operation of a joint landfill" and authorizes the county managers to draw up a site selection feasibility study bid package they will submit to engineering and consulting firms.

The bid package should be ready for distribution by Jan. 1, 1990, said Bob Frye, a Region D Council of Governments planner who help county managers Earl Tipton (Yancey), Keith Holtsclaw (Mitchell) and Randall Fletcher (Avery) put the package together.

The counties need to contract for a site selection study — which will consider geology of potential sites, environmental safety and transportation routes — "because we don't have the expertise we need to select a site," Frye said.

Several engineering firms who "heard through the grapevine" that a multi-county landfill was under consideration have already expressed interest in bidding on the

site selection study. Cost of the study may be as high as \$20,000 per county, Frye said.

Wednesday night's agreement doesn't bind the three counties — all of which expect to run out of space in their current landfills within 12 to 36 months — to paying for the study if their commissioners decide the recommended bid is beyond their range, he said.

But a Westinghouse environmental engineer who attended the meeting told commissioners new Environmental Protection Agency landfill regulations make regional facilities the only economically sensible solution for small counties.

"Up-front costs are about the same whether the landfill is big or small," Gregory

Richardson said. "You want to find one good area, define your perimeter, and go from there.

"The only thing you should be talking about now is the benefit package you're going to offer to the host county. There should be benefits to the host community, because if the landfill has a failure, it's that community's groundwater that will be contaminated," he said.

Though regionalization of solid waste disposal is occurring all over the United States, the only other group of North Carolina counties Richardson said he knows that is currently discussing a joint landfill are Pitt and a half-dozen of its neighbors.

The state recommends landfills be sited on at least 100 acres.

The initial study for the three counties "will be pretty straightforward" because the consultant will "probably be able to eliminate about 90 percent of the area" before it begins to try to pinpoint a site, Richardson said.

Yancey, Avery and Mitchell boards voted on the resolution Wednesday because a majority of their members attended the meeting.

Dr. Reese Steen, the single Madison County commissioner in attendance, will present the resolution to fellow board members at a future meeting.