



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

## ALAMANCE COUNTY LANDFILL

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March 2, 2006

Geoffrey H. Little  
Solid Waste Section  
NC-DENR  
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1646 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1646



Dear Mr. Little,

Thank you for your visit to the Swepsonville Landfill on December 8, 2005. As you are aware an individual has expressed interest in purchasing a portion of the undeveloped acreage (approximately 100 acres) across Hall Creek at the rear of the Alamance County Landfill in Swepsonville. The Swepsonville landfill last received waste on October 1, 1993. Since closure of the facility Alamance County has monitored groundwater and erosion features at the site. Due to groundwater contamination, six (6) adjacent private wells have been monitored since 1992 by the local health department and state toxicologist. In addition, the old soil borrow located near the front of the property has been approved by the state as an emergency storm debris collection site. A communications tower, small model airplane flying club and beagle hunt club also exist on the site. A new cell tower is planned for the northwest area of the site.

We are requesting your response and guidance to the following questions:

- How much buffer area from the toe of the waste to a new property line should the county maintain?
- What is the required separation from waste to private water supplies?
- What is the required separation from waste to private sewage systems?
- What is the required separation from waste to residence or structures?
- What would be the requirements of an access road from Alfred Road through the existing landfill?
- What other requirements or recommendations should the county consider?

Enclosed is a site map for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

*Alvin H. Cagle*  
Alvin H. Cagle

Solid Waste Director



GROVE LN

SWEPSONVILLE-SAXAPHAW RD

TOM BURKE LN

ALFRED RD

PHEASANT RUN RD

WORMRANCH RD

54 HWY

BOWLINGWOOD LN

BRUCEWOOD RD

CRYSTAL SPRING CT

CARRIAGE CREEK CT

CARRIAGE RUN CT

SWEPSVILLE-SAXAPHAW RD

BRUCEWOOD RD

WORMRANCH RD