



Public Meeting Handout

Application for Public Benefit Determination Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, Inc. – Crossroads Landfill

Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, Inc. requests a determination of public benefit for a proposed expansion of the Crossroads Landfill, referred to as Phase 14. Before the Department can accept a proposed expansion application for processing, the Commissioner must make a positive determination of substantial public benefit. Phase 14 is being planned to provide an additional 7 million cubic yards and approximately 15 years of disposal capacity. The Crossroads Landfill is owned and operated by Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, Inc.

- I. The following provides some applicable excerpts from Chapter 400 of Maine’s Solid Waste Management Rules pertaining to applications for public benefit determinations.

5.E. Standards for public benefit determination. The Commissioner shall find that a proposed solid waste disposal facility or expansion that is subject to the provisions of this section provides a substantial public benefit if it meets the following standards:

- (1) The facility meets immediate, short-term, or long-term capacity needs of the State. For purposes of this paragraph, “immediate” means within the next 3 years, “short-term” means within the next 5 years, and “long-term” means within the next 10 years. When evaluating whether a proposed facility meets the capacity needs of the State, the commissioner shall consider relevant local and regional needs as appropriate and the regional nature of the development and use of disposal capacity due to transportation distances and other factors;
- (2) Except for expansion of a commercial solid waste disposal facility that accepts only special waste for landfilling, the facility is consistent with the State Waste Management and Recycling Plan and promotes the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy as set out in 38 M.R.S.A. § 2101;
- (3) The facility is not inconsistent with local, regional, or state waste collection, storage, transportation, processing, or disposal.

4.N. Solid Waste Management Hierarchy

- (1) **Standards.** The purpose and practices of the solid waste facility must be consistent with the State’s solid waste management hierarchy set forth in 38 M.R.S.A. §2101, which establishes that it is the policy of the State to actively promote and encourage waste reduction measures and the maximization of waste diversion efforts, and which sets forth an

integrated approach to the management of solid waste generated in and imported to the State, based upon the following order of priority:

- (a) Reduction of waste generated at the source, including both amount and toxicity of the waste;
 - (b) Reuse of waste;
 - (c) Recycling of waste;
 - (d) Composting of biodegradable waste;
 - (e) Waste processing that reduces the volume of waste needing land disposal; including incineration; and,
 - (f) Land disposal of waste.
- (2) **Submissions.** The application must include evidence that affirmatively demonstrates that the purpose and practices of the solid waste facility are consistent with the solid waste management hierarchy including, but not limited to:
- (a) **Solid waste disposal facility.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of this Chapter, evidence that demonstrates that the waste has been reduced, reused, recycled, composted, and/or processed to the maximum extent practicable prior to incineration or landfilling, in order to maximize the amount of material recycled and reused, and to minimize the amount of waste being disposed. Such evidence shall include, but is not limited to, a description of the reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and/or processing programs/efforts that the waste is or will be subject to, and that are sufficiently within the control of the applicant to manage or facilitate, including relevant metrics to evaluate effectiveness; and a description of ongoing efforts to increase the effectiveness of these programs/efforts.

For the purposes of this section, reducing, reusing, recycling, composting and/or processing waste to the “maximum extent practicable” prior to disposal means handling the greatest amount of waste possible through means as high on the solid waste management hierarchy as possible, resulting in maximizing waste diversion and minimizing the amount of waste disposed, without causing unreasonable increases in facility operating costs or unreasonable impacts on other aspects of the facility’s operation. Determination of the “maximum extent practicable” includes consideration of the availability and cost of technologies and services, transportation and handling logistics, and overall costs that may be associated with various waste handling methods.

- II. The following provides an excerpt from the Maine Materials Management Plan 2014 State Waste Management and Recycling Plan Update & 2012 Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report, January 2014.

V. Plan for State Action to Move toward Sustainable Materials Management – 2014 - 2018

The priorities for Maine DEP's work on sustainable materials management for the next 5 years are to:

- Encourage the development of new infrastructure for separation from the waste stream and utilization of organics, including composting and technologies such as anaerobic digestion.
- Encourage increased beneficial use and recycling of materials, including identification of incentives and removal of unnecessary barriers.
- Provide tools and assistance to municipalities and businesses to support waste reduction and diversion efforts.
- Continue refinement of data sources and data management systems to more accurately and consistently assess progress toward statewide reduction and recycling goals, and to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and strategies.

Web Links and Contact Information:

Maine DEP Crossroads Landfill Website:

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/crossroadslandfill/index.html>

Chapter 400 of the Solid Waste Management Rules:

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/06/096/096c400.doc>

Maine Materials Management Plan:

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=611576&an=1>

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