

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

August 18, 1988

Room 330

Committee Members Present: Gary Hansen (Chair), Sharron Kelley (V. Chair), Corky Kirkpatrick and Mike Ragsdale

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner

Other Councilors Present: George Van Bergen

Chair Hansen called the Work Session to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. Introduction by Committee Chair

Chair Hansen explained why this Work Session on limited purpose landfills had been scheduled. He said Killingsworth Fast Disposal (KFD) would soon close. He said there would soon be an increased need for limited purpose landfills. He said burdens would be placed on the public and the haulers to dispose of dense loads and there should be as many resources as possible to facilitate the increased need to dispose of dense loads. He said the region would save funds if additional limited purpose landfills were sited and accepted dense loads. He said he would like to see more facilities of this type sited and said the purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the current status of limited purpose landfills in the region.

2. Briefing on Limited Purpose Landfills

Gary Clapshaw, Hillsboro Landfill, said the Hillsboro landfill was an older facility and said the company had applied for a permit to expand. He said 40 acres of the site were currently in use. He said the permit process to allow expansion was extremely complicated. Mr. Clapshaw discussed features for environmental protections at sites and said cooperation from all parties involved was necessary.

Mr. Clapshaw said the Hillsboro Landfill did not take food or food-related items, hazardous waste and or chemicals. All other materials were acceptable. He said the waste disposal industry was going through a transformation. He said because of increasing rates, users were pressured to deliver non-acceptable waste products which in turn caused difficulties at the gatehouse. He said among other new developments, there would be waste-monitoring education. He said waste was inspected visually. He said two years ago dried paint can containers were disposable, but not now. He said entire loads were refused if they were contaminated.

Gary Newbore, Riedel Environmental Technologies, said Riedel took loads similar to those delivered at the Hillsboro facility. Realistically, he said, gatehouse operators could only see the top of

the load. He said food waste was routed to St. Johns. He said Riedel had a sister company which handled hazardous wastes and billed them for that service. He said the average weight of a yard of waste was 250 pounds, or eight yards to a ton. He said they received 150,000 to 170,000 tons per year.

Mr. Newbore said their site was scheduled to close March 1989. He said once the November rate increase was effective, the facility could close even earlier. Riedel did attempt to obtain a site approximately 1,000 feet from the present site, but said the main deterrent to siting the facility centered on whether a landfill on the site would contaminate the City of Portland's drinking water. Mr. Newbore discussed pumps and groundwater. He said a triple liner for the facility was proposed, but it had been disputed whether three liners would offer adequate protection from contamination.

Steve Greenwood, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), said Riedel had done a good job addressing risks at the site they hoped to obtain. He said a triple liner would reduce risks considerably, but the consequences if anything went wrong made the site questionable. He said the presence of a well system made such a facility too risky, especially if site equipment had not been installed correctly.

Councilor Kirkpatrick asked if there were other limited purpose landfills in addition to the two represented at this meeting. Mr. Newbore said the other limited purpose landfill was Grabhorn Landfill. He said the Grabhorn facility was selective about the waste it accepted. Mr. Newbore said all possible options should be evaluated to help alleviate the lack of limited landfills.

Mr. Greenwood said certain materials were difficult to dispose of because of gas and leachate. He said clean-up procedures could be extremely expensive. He said DEQ and Riedel had explored Riedel's accepting organic waste.

Rich Owings, Director of Solid Waste, distributed two tables: one table demonstrated the flow of waste to the Arlington Landfill until 2000; and the second demonstrated the composition of waste at KFD. Mr. Owings noted 30 percent of the waste stream was demolition waste. He said the St. Johns Landfill would be tremendously impacted when KFD did close. He said waste would eventually pass through the Metro South Station (previously known as the Clackamas Transfer and Recycling Center) and go to Gilliam County. He said transportation of waste would begin in January 1990. He said St. Johns was expected to last until February 1991. Mr. Owings noted no new landfills had opened in the last 10 years. He said Metro had to stimulate business owners because the cost of permits and siting was very expensive. Mr. Newbore said there were not many possible sites which did not have the potential to pollute groundwater.

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Chair Hansen noted the Waybo Pit was a superior site and less likely to have problems than KFD. Mr. Greenwood disagreed and said DEQ had assessed the situation. He said Riedel considered the site because it had been considered before by other potential vendors. He said it would be better if Riedel located another site.

Mr. Greenwood said the term "special waste" had been innocuous in the past, but that the concept of special waste had begun to change. He said Metro should analyze special disposal needs beside that of demolition materials because asbestos and medical wastes would need specific attention.

Councilor Van Bergen asked staff at what financial level could vendors compete in the limited purpose landfill business. He said he was aware of the gravel pits in Portland. He suggested it would be cheaper to drill new wells than to site a facility away from current well systems. Councilor Kirkpatrick noted all the issues discussed could not belong to Portland alone and other jurisdictions must have similar problems.

Mr. Owings said it would cost \$44 per ton in 1988 to send waste to Gilliam County. He said landfills should be considered community resources instead of liabilities and identified and preserved in comprehensive plans. He said without an environmentally sound landfill, regional economic stability would be adversely affected.

Councilor Ragsdale agreed with Councilor Van Bergen's suggestion to drill new wells and said such action could be less expensive than hauling costs. Mr. Greenwood said the City of Portland planned to use all existing wells and develop a west well field also.

Bob Martin, Engineering Manager, said more limited purpose landfills were required because of Arlington. He said another reason limited purpose landfills were required was because many wastes that could currently be disposed of in a general purpose landfill would not be allowed later. He said some wastes would not even be acceptable at a limited purpose landfill in the future. He said specific wastes could have waste disposal systems designed for them. He said asbestos went into the general landfill now because it was not considered a groundwater threat. He said other types of waste, such as contaminated soil, were not desirable for disposal at Arlington because it occupied valuable space. He said varied approaches were needed for all types of waste disposal. He said if the purity of a homogenous waste product could be guaranteed, such a waste product could be specifically disposed of. He said it would lead to a new dimension of recycling which ultimately would be source separation.

The Committee, staff and others present discussed Subtitle D. Mr. Greenwood explained Subtitle D would regulate solid waste disposal,

just as Subtitle C regulated hazardous waste, and was meant to be adopted in 1987. He said DEQ had not received a draft of the new regulations in four years. He said once adopted, Subtitle D was not subject to change. He said most states had implemented regulations beyond what the federal government would require.

Mr. Greenwood noted Seattle had a solid waste utility system in which collection and disposal costs were combined. Mr. Owings said the Solid Waste Management Plan would unite all jurisdictions in the regional solid waste system to share responsibility. Mr. Greenwood said data in Seattle could be accessed to gain a better understanding of how a similar system in the District might work.

Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Newbore, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Clapshaw and staff for their participation.

Status of Developing Solid Waste Plan Policies

Becky Crockett, Senior Analyst, distributed a memorandum to the Committee from Chair Hansen dated August 16, 1988, "Status of Developing Solid Waste Plan Policies." Ms. Crockett briefly discussed the memorandum.

Chair Hansen adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
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