

DNR Testimony on Clearinghouse Rule 02-145,
Relating to adjusting solid waste licensing and plan review fees
Before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

September 18, 2003

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the DNR's proposed rule to increase plan review and licensing fees. My name is Suzanne Bangert, Director for the Bureau of Waste Management, Department of Natural Resources.

It is unfortunate that the Department's Waste Management program has to increase fees to ensure it can complete the work called for in this State's laws. The simple fact is that in spite of the downsizing we have undergone in the past 7 years, and the streamlining efforts to improve the efficiency of completing the solid waste work, we need to modestly increase the fees. Stakeholders, industry, businesses and the general public expect implementation of the solid waste laws, and we will not be able to effectively do that without this increase.

Here are some of the facts:

- Since the mid-1990's, the solid waste program has reduced its staffing compliment from 52 positions to 34 today. That is a 35% reduction in the staff to complete this work.
- The increase in the rule passed by the Natural Resources Board supports existing positions. We are not proposing to increase positions. In fact, even with this fee increase, we will cut additional-1 – 2 positions for the solid waste program in the next year. This is due to reduced tonnage going to landfills and the time it has taken in moving this increase forward.
- It has been 7 years since we last increased these fees.
- The fee increase for licenses and plan reviews is 10%, equal to just inflation over this time period since the last increase.
- The increase for fees at the landfills (the tipping fee surcharge), is minuscule, ranging from 0.1% to 0.33% of the tipping fees at landfills.
- Without this fee increase, the solid waste program will lose additional 9 positions in the next 2 years. The way Wisconsin sites and approves its landfills, and other solid waste facilities, along with how it inspects and enforces the state and federal laws would have to be completely changed under this scenario.
- We have collaborated with stakeholders in 1999 and again this year, to identify and implement improvements that have and will continue to streamline our work, and reduce costs to businesses and industry in the approval process for landfills.

So what services do staff at the DNR provide in implementing the solid waste laws? Staff perform a variety of activities, including:

- Review and approve plans and reports associated with siting and licensing landfills and other solid waste facilities. The process provides for a thorough review of the location, design, construction and operation of a landfill, and appropriate public input along the way.
- Perform landfill and other solid waste facility inspections and evaluations for initial siting, initial licensing, site certification, construction inspections, environmental audits, and general surveillance.

.2% INCREASE FOR MALLARD RIDGE
1

- Enforce state laws for activities at landfills and other solid waste facilities.
- Develop solid waste rules, policies, procedures and guidance.
- Provide technical assistance and information for internal and external audiences, including technical training.
- Conduct outreach for external audiences, including Web-sites, newsletters, fact sheets, publications, presentations, etc.
- Manage data systems to define and quantify solid waste, track solid waste facility license and location information, track project submittals and review status, and track and evaluate environmental monitoring data.

The rule package before this committee contains the following provisions:

- 10% increase in all solid waste license and plan review fees, representing the inflationary increases since 1997

The rule package contains an annual adjustment to the Landfill License Fee Surcharge. The current surcharge fee is 9 cents/ton. We are proposing the following adjustments:

- 12 cents/ton effective April 1, 2004,
- 14 cents/ton effective July 1, 2004
- 15 cents/ton effective July 1, 2005 and beyond

Other provisions in the rule package include:

- DNR will hold a public meeting annually in September to review the status of the program revenue account
- If the account balance at the end of the previous fiscal year is greater than 8% of the expenditure level of the program revenue account authorized in Chapter 20, DNR will submit proposed rule revisions to modify the surcharge fee to more closely align revenues with expenditures. The proposed rule revisions will be submitted to the DNR Board within 180 days of the annual public meeting.

We recognize and appreciate these difficult economic times for the businesses, industry, local government and citizens of this state. We did not enter into these discussions with businesses and industry lightly. We openly discussed the situation with these stakeholders to determine how to best address this deficit. In the end, after over a year of discussion, we all agreed that what is included in this rule is the best of a number of unpalatable options.

We ask your support of this rule. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have on this clearinghouse rule package.

02-145 Mike

Don't remember from

- Tomorrow's sleep in

Kenel Hill.

1-2 FTE and

need to be cut.

* 7 yrs since last summer (July?)

* Will have to change printing & wrapping drastically

- ~~Don~~

McLard Ridge

* 2% increase Othman

Fee (\$20,000 increase)

* \$9.3 mill in tip fees of -

Talking for an hour along to someone

- Balance no

granite stone 80?

- 2 -

Rule 02-145: Self-Defense Fees
+ Paper Comments
(Text only)

- 700 gets cut / 2 papers
- 200 gets cut / in WA

- 6d/700 is tough in poor economic times

- Base Program cuts should be taken out of the formula some stakeholders (ie. paper mills) can't pass costs on

Room for streamlining, myself
- Why couldn't funds be streamlined (ie. recycling - green tagging fees to landfill)

- Council like a program based approach

John Beirle -

- like landfills

Support rule to fund steps of technology to

help more plants

through

- This done this for 30 yrs.

Clavin Schmidt (Farm)

CLEAN WA Forum
Environmental Decade