

Nonhazardous
Solid Waste Management
And Landfill Capacity
2011

Nonhazardous Solid Waste Management and Landfill Capacity in Illinois: 25th Annual Report (2011)

Section 4 of the Illinois Solid Waste Management Act requires the Agency to “publish a report regarding the projected disposal capacity available for solid waste in sanitary landfills. . . . Such reports shall present the data on an appropriate regional basis. . . [and] shall include an assessment of the life expectancy of each site.”

This legislative mandate explains why the main body of this report is organized by seven Illinois EPA administrative regions and why landfill capacity and life expectancy are emphasized in text and landfill specification pages in the regional sections.

Statewide Data Overview

In calendar year 2011, 40 Illinois landfills accepted almost 46.2 million gate cubic yards of solid waste, one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) more waste than was accepted during 2010. Some of these landfills were not active during the full year; and none of the active landfills closed during the year. Several landfills submitted their affidavit of certification of closure, and some were approved.

Landfill operators report that 13.3 percent of that waste amount was accepted from 11 other states. All landfills are required to report amounts of out-of-state waste accepted. Twenty-two (22) of the 40 landfills (55 percent) accepted more than 6.1 million gate cubic yards of waste from other states.

Landfill capacity increased by less than one percent year to year

Capacity remaining reported by 45 landfill owners and operators as of Jan. 1, 2012, increased by less than one percent (0.3 percent). This total of more than one billion gate cubic yards of available capacity was up almost 2.8 million gate cubic yards from data reported a year earlier.

Landfill life in years means remaining capacity divided by waste disposed. This figure tells how long a region may be served by local landfills at current disposal rates, barring capacity adjustments, until capacity is depleted. The figure as of Jan. 1, 2012 is 23 years of landfill life remaining. The regions range from a low of 12 years of landfill life remaining in Region Two: Chicago Metropolitan to a high of 54 years in Regions Three: Peoria/Quad Cities and Seven: Southern Illinois.

Banned wastes to include electronics after Jan. 1, 2012

Trucks arriving at a landfill are inspected for prohibited nonhazardous wastes and for hazardous wastes that Illinois bans from disposal in landfills, including: bulk liquids, landscape wastes, lead

acid batteries, potentially infectious medical waste, used motor oil, white good components and whole tires.

Beginning January 1, 2012, computers, monitors, televisions and printers will be banned from landfill disposal. Under the new law passed in August 2011, the list of items required to be recycled is expanded to include keyboards, portable music devices, scanners, videocassette recorders, video game consoles and more will also be banned from disposal in landfills.

Loads are weighed and details about them are recorded. They are then taken to the exposed portion of the active cell, which is known as the working face.

Inactive landfills may be allowed to “temporarily close”

Streator Area Landfill #3, Streator, had a permit application that was withdrawn from Agency review on Mar. 5, 2010 for a horizontal expansion. The operation has been temporarily closed since 2005. On Apr. 28, 2006, RCS Landfill Inc., Jerseyville, also became inactive, for business reasons and continues inactivity, but reports capacity. Saline County Landfill, Harrisburg, also ceased accepting waste on June 7, 2006. The operator declared to Illinois EPA that it was “temporarily closed,” and still is during the current year. Spoon Ridge Landfill, Fairview, has been temporarily closed since 2008, although it has been reporting the most available capacity for the past 14 years. On additional landfill: Bond County Landfill, Greenville reported it ceased accepting waste on March 31, 2010, and yet continues to report available capacity.

The total number of Illinois landfill operators that reported available capacity to Illinois EPA, as of Jan. 1, 2012, was 45. This total includes the four temporarily closed landfills named above as well as the landfill in Greenville that became inactive for business reasons on March 31, 2010.

Permanent landfill closings affect local capacity

No landfills closed during 2011. However, two landfills reached their capacity limit and closed their gates during 2010. In Region Four, Clinton Landfill #2, Clinton, ceased accepting waste on June, 15, 2010. This site closed after the Clinton Landfill #3 opened across the street. In Region 6, Bond County Landfill, Greenville, closed on March 30, 2010. Salem Landfill, Salem, one of the State’s few city-owned and operated landfills, closed on October 15, 2010.

All of these landfills in the state were open into 2012, including the newer facilities of Atkinson Landfill, Atkinson and Clinton Landfill #3, Clinton, which opened in 2009. No new facilities opened in either 2010 or 2011.

Several landfills submitted affidavits of certification of closure to Illinois EPA in 2011, and some of them have received approval.

Capacity is up almost 2.8 million gate cubic yards, as documented on Jan. 1, 2012

In a year that brought a less than one percent increase in landfill capacity, three regions reported capacity increases ranging from 1.5 to 6.6 percent. There was almost a 2.8 million gate cubic yard increase from year to year. However, four regions reported a decline of available capacity. Region Four's capacity declined the most at 5.6 percent. Regions Five, Six and Seven also reported declines in capacity ranging from 1.7 to 3.8 percent.

Capacity is increasing because of landfill expansion proposals, rather than new landfills

During calendar year 2011, the application for an expansion at Veolia ES Zion landfill in Zion was approved on June 3, 2011. Rochelle's landfill expansion proposal was approved on July 18, 2011.

During 2010, Laraway Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF), Elwood/Joliet received the approval to expand its landfill from the Agency's Bureau of Land.

How to Check Status of Bureau of Land Permit Applications on the Internet

Permit application forms are found on-line at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/forms>.

Once the Agency receives a permit application, the Bureau of Land, Permit Section (Section), proceeds with the review. One of the databases available to everyone on the Internet is the Solid Waste Unit's web database search. With this database, one can determine the status of permit applications that have been submitted.

A Solid Waste Unit web database search at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/databases> is designed to inform the public about applications submitted, or permits obtained from the Bureau of Land (BOL). The Section issues permits for the management of non-hazardous waste at landfills, transfer stations, compost and waste storage, treatment, processing and recovery facilities.

On the search results page, the log number is linked to a brief description of the application. The main identifiers for applications are:

1. Any part of the BOL name of the site
2. The closest city to the site or
3. The county where the facility is located

Choose search method from "Active" or "Inactive" applications:

"Active" means an application is pending for the site. "Inactive" means that there are no applications currently pending, but there may be applications for which the Section has taken final action (issued, denied or withdrawn).

Further searches may be made by city, county or site name. For more help in using this database search, contact the Bureau of Land Permit Reviewer on call at 217-524-3300.

Public versus Private Ownership and Operation of Landfills in Illinois

Knox County located in the Peoria/Quad Cities area (Region Three) is the last public entity to both own and operate their landfill.

There are also counties that own and/or operate landfills. Whiteside County owns the Prairie Hill RDF in Morrison, in Northwestern Illinois (Region One). Will County owns Prairie View RDF in Joliet in the Chicago Metropolitan Area (Region Two) and Knox County located in the Peoria/Quad Cities area (Region Three) is the last public entity to both own and operate their own landfill; also the County of Peoria jointly owns the Peoria City/County Landfill No. 2 landfill with the City of Peoria, but leaves the operation to a private entity.

Some cities in Illinois own landfills in the state, but do not operate them. For example, in Region 1, Northwestern Illinois, the City of Rochelle owns the landfill located there; and in Region 3, Peoria/Quad Cities, the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria jointly own the Peoria City/County Landfill No. 2 through their Solid Waste Board.

The rest of the landfills in the state are both privately owned and operated.

Conclusion

For more details about solid waste landfills located throughout the seven Illinois EPA administrative regions of Illinois, see the body of the document on pages R1.1 through R7.6.

The seven administrative regions are:

Region One: Northwestern Illinois;

Region Two: Chicago Metropolitan;

Region Three: Peoria/Quad Cities;

Region Four: East Central Illinois;

Region Five: West Central Illinois;

Region Six: St. Louis Metropolitan East and

Region Seven: Southern Illinois.