

Proposed Air Quality Plan Approval for Leachate Evaporation System at Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill

WHERE

Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL) is a municipal/residual landfill located in Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County. This facility and associated waste transportation company County Hauling are owned by Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill, LLC.

WHAT

- Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill, LLC. applied to the Pennsylvania DEP for an air quality plan approval to authorize the construction and temporary operation of a leachate evaporation system.
- Leachate is essentially liquid that has come into contact with waste material. Leachate is often generated by moisture in the waste itself and stormwater infiltrating through the landfill. This liquid, which is generated at all landfills, can pick up contamination that must be continually removed from the landfill and treated.
- WSL's proposed system would consist of one (1) Pentair hydrocarbon recovery unit; one (1) Cleaver Brooks ProFire MYHG 25.2 MMBtu/hr natural gas-fired burner; and one (1) 45,000 gallon per day (gpd) Heartland Water Technology evaporation system.



PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

The plan approval process is designed to ensure that an application is carefully reviewed by DEP and the public is given ample opportunity to comment before a final action is taken by DEP. The steps for this project are:

- **October 9, 2019:** WSL submitted an application for authorization to install and operate a leachate evaporation system.
- **November 5, 2019:** DEP completed its administrative review of the application.
- **May 9, 2020:** DEP completed its technical review and published a notice of intent (NOI) to issue that prompted a 30-day public comment period.
- **June 8, 2020:** The 30-day public comment period ended. DEP received a substantial amount of comments from the public on that initial proposed plan approval.
- **July 2, 2020 – May 7, 2021:** Based upon public comments received, DEP paused any plan approval issuance and sent a series of deficiency notices to WSL requiring additional information pertaining to potential emissions of radionuclides. Specifics of the deficiency notices and WSL's responses can be found on the designated DEP community information webpage for WSL found at www.dep.pa.gov/WSL. DEP's air quality regional permit reviewers, modeling section in Harrisburg, and radiation protection program reviewed the materials submitted by WSL.
- **July 23, 2022:** DEP completed its technical review and published a NOI to issue that triggered a 30-day public comment period. DEP produced an addendum to the previous review memo. The addendum to the memo summarizes the DEP's review after May 9, 2020, and any subsequent updates to the proposed plan approval.
- **August 31, 2022 and September 1, 2022:** DEP elected to hold one in-person hearing and one virtual hearing on the proposed action to receive public comments and testimony.
- **September 19, 2022:** The public comment period runs through September 19, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

DEP AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED

- DEP's air quality program typically requires approval of the plan prior to the construction of any new air contamination source, modification of an existing air contamination source, reactivation of an air contamination source, or the installation of an air-cleaning device on an air contamination source.
- DEP has determined that the proposed project satisfies the DEP's Best Available Technology (BAT) requirements. If issued and once compliance with the plan approval is demonstrated, WSL will be required to revise or submit a Title V Operating Permit (TVOP) application. Landfills are considered major sources by regulation, otherwise this facility would be classified as a minor source based on its potential to emit regulated pollutants.
- Potential to emit from the project on a 12-month rolling basis is estimated to be:
 - 1.7 tons per year of nitrogen oxides (NO_x),
 - 1.0 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO),
 - 7.5 tons per year of particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀),
 - 7.5 tons per year of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}),
 - 0.2 tons per year of sulfur dioxide (SO₂),
 - 0.8 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC), and
 - 0.3 tons per year of total hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).
- The updated plan approval conditions include:
 - Emission limitations for radium-226 and radium-228,
 - Additional leachate sampling parameters (radionuclides and metals),
 - Additional stack testing for radionuclides, metals, dioxins, and furans,
 - Quarterly stack testing for particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5) and radionuclides,
 - Radionuclide monitoring,
 - Audit inspection of hydrocarbon recovery unit and leachate evaporation system every 5 years, and
 - Additional recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

NEXT STEPS

DEP will evaluate all written comments and testimony submitted during the public comment period on the proposed action. As a result of this evaluation, DEP may make changes to the plan approval. DEP may issue the permit as currently drafted, issue the permit with modifications to the current draft, or deny the application. DEP will develop a comment and response document detailing responses to all comments and any changes to the final plan approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments will be accepted until September 19, 2022, at 4:00 PM and should be submitted to the attention of Melissa Jativa, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; or emailed to RA-EPSWROAIRPERMNOTE@pa.gov.

Comments must contain the name, address, email, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments, the proposed Plan Approval (PA-65-00767C), a concise statement of the objections to the plan approval issuance, and the relevant facts upon which the objections are based.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information and to track updates, visit DEP's webpage: www.dep.pa.gov/WSL. This webpage is updated regularly and contains permit/authorization review documents, DEP press releases, Pennsylvania Bulletin notices, and other documents related to the site. Please direct questions or complaints about the facility to DEP's Southwest Regional Office at 412-442-4000. Complaints can also be submitted at www.dep.pa.gov/environmentalcomplaints.