

Pioneer Crossing Landfill, Major Permit Modification Application Permit Application No. 100346

Background

F.R.&S. Inc. (doing business as Pioneer Crossing Landfill) has applied for a major permit modification for its existing Solid Waste Permit (No. 100346). The existing facility rests on 320.3 acres, of which 219.0 acres encompass the permit area. This major permit modification application is seeking approval for an additional 69.3 acres of permit area of which 41.15 acres is proposed for future disposal area. The proposed project location is 727 Red Lane Road, Birdsboro, Exeter Township, Berks County.

What is a “Major Permit Modification?”

A major permit modification is a request by a facility that holds a permit issued by DEP to alter the conditions of that existing permit. Pioneer Crossing Landfill’s expansion application is considered a “major permit modification” by DEP because it meets some of the criteria set forth in the PA Code that governs landfills. In its application, Pioneer Crossing is requesting to expand the north and northwestern sides of its existing landfill.

You can learn more about the permitting process by visiting DEP’s Waste Management webpage:
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/permitting/14092>

What will be happening there?

The proposed Pioneer Crossing Landfill expansion is a municipal waste facility, which will accept municipal and residual waste. If the expansion is approved, the facility will be allowed to expand 69.3 acres on the 320.3 acres of existing permitted area of the landfill. The landfill does not propose to increase the landfill’s approved average daily volume (ADV) or maximum daily volume (MDV). If the permit expansion is denied, Pioneer Crossing Landfill will continue to operate under the conditions set forth in its existing Waste Management permit with DEP.

DEP Waste Management Staff will continually monitor the landfill with regular and unannounced inspections and by reviewing Pioneer Crossing Landfill’s monitoring reports for daily intake (volume of waste) and leachate treatment to ensure the landfill is operating within the guidelines and conditions set forth in its Waste Management Permit and adhering to state regulations that govern landfill operations. The DEP will also monitor the landfill to assist in minimizing any nuisances such as: odor, fugitive dust by truck traffic.

What is an Environmental Justice Area?

Exeter Township is an Environmental Justice Area due to a variety of social and economic factors. Hence DEP is working to facilitate enhanced public participation to ensure that the public is informed and can be involved. More information on Environmental Justice can be found on DEP’s website at: <https://dep.pa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

What is the review process?

The PA DEP Waste Management Program officially received the Major Permit Modification application for expansion of the Pioneer Crossing Landfill on April 26, 2024, and the application was deemed administratively complete on May 29, 2024. The Department will complete a technical review of the application to determine if the proposal fulfills all applicable federal and state regulations. Pioneer Crossing Landfill also published a notice of the application in the local newspaper as required by regulation.

If DEP approves (issues) the permit, Pioneer Crossing Landfill may begin their expansion. The issuance of the permit may be appealed by the public if anyone thinks that DEP erred in its decision. Anyone who provides comments on the permit application, whether in writing or orally at a public meeting, informal conference, or through an objection by mail or email, will have their comments and objections considered in the DEP’s review.

How might this affect you?

The landfill operation would continue as it does today with no increase in trash hauling volume. Per the requirements of the major permit modification process for landfill expansion, an environmental assessment will be required for this project which is to include a detailed analysis of potential impacts on the environment, public health, and public safety, including traffic, aesthetics, noise, odor, air quality, water quality, stream flow, fish and wildlife, plants, aquatic habitat, threatened or endangered species, water uses, land use and municipal waste plans. The environmental assessment is designed to ensure that environmental harms from proposed municipal and residual waste disposal and processing facilities are mitigated to the fullest extent possible. If harms are not completely mitigated, the benefits of the project to the public must clearly outweigh the known and potential environmental harms.

Where can I review the application?

An electronic copy of the application can be viewed on the DEP South Central Regional Office Community Information page: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthcentralRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/default.aspx>

Will there be a public meeting or hearing?

DEP will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, July 29th at 5 PM at Exeter Community Library, 4569 Prestwick Dr, Reading, PA 19606. This meeting will provide a space for community members to learn more about the proposed facility and to ask questions to the Department and permit applicant.

To virtually attend the July 29th public meeting, go to www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting, and input the following meeting ID: 223 914 155 103 and passcode: Z7X5sC

The public may request a public hearing or informal conference by contacting the South Central Regional Office.

There are two (2) ways to submit a comment:

1. Submit your comments in writing and mail them to:
**DEP South Central Regional Office C/O Dom Tuzzato PA DEP Waste Management Program
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110**
2. Submit them by email by sending them (with your name and email address) to dtuzzato@pa.gov Please include "Pioneer Crossing Landfill Comments and [Your Name]" in the subject line.

Who can I contact with questions or comments?

Dom Tuzzato, Environmental Engineer, Department of Environmental Protection, Southcentral Regional Office
dtuzzato@pa.gov.

While the Department will accept comments for consideration at any point during the review, we would like to receive comments by 10/1/24 to be able to incorporate them into the environmental assessment and technical review.

If you have any accommodation requests, please contact Ariana Genna in advance at agenna@pa.gov.