



For Immediate Release
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WM landfill plans approved

State Department of Ecology and the Chelan-Douglas Health District issue final permits for landfill air quality and operations

East Wenatchee, WA – Waste Management’s District Manager Ted Woodard, who has led the company’s permitting effort stated, “We’re very pleased to receive state and local approval for our landfill and plans. This means we can move ahead with our plans to add landfill capacity, make some important upgrades, and enhance our ability to process recyclable materials.”

According to Woodard, the landfill expansion is a win-win for the company and the community because it creates a number of benefits for the community, the most obvious being stable disposal rates for years to come. “By expanding now, we also reduce the need for Douglas or Chelan counties to plan, locate, fund and build other solid waste facilities in the foreseeable future.”

Waste Management initiated the expansion permit process with the submission of applications and support documents on April 1st, 2005. Based in part on a thorough Environmental Impact Statement on the project, the required land use approvals were granted by the Douglas County Hearing Examiner on February 1st 2007. The company responded to local and agency comments and requests for information, submitting a revised application on August 2, 2007. The CDHD approved the company’s application November 7, 2007.

Describing the permitting timeline, Woodard noted that the project required the company to secure 17 permits and approvals, often with multiple agency reviews. “We initiated the permitting process with a pre-application meeting with Douglas County, the Chelan Douglas Health District, Ecology, other agency staff and consultants, in August, 2004, so it’s taken just under four years to complete the entire process, well below the national average of about seven years,” added Woodard.

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The approvals allow the company to add 92.5 acres of landfill space (30-40 years, depending on annual volumes), new access roads, upgrade of the landfill gas collection and control system, a materials recovery facility for processing recyclables, and a rock, asphalt and concrete crusher to be used intermittently.

According to Woodard, next Spring the company will began extensive excavation of the next disposal cell, called module 5A, which is located directly west of the existing facility. "With these approvals, we have gained enough vertical landfill space to accommodate expected volumes through 2010," said Woodard, and adding, "It looks like it's going to be another busy year at the landfill."

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