

Solid Waste Funding Workgroup
DEQ Solid Waste Program Priorities
11/18/2011

Permits/Licenses – Current level of FTEs is appropriate for managing the current number of Landfill, Processing Plant, and Transfer Facility licenses. Lower level of hydrogeologic permitting should be evaluated for enclosed facilities. A one-time permit should be considered for transfer facilities and processing plants in place of the currently required license renewal process.

Solid Waste Planning – It is estimated that three additional FTEs will be necessary to implement the solid waste planning process in whatever form it eventually takes. Various options still need to be evaluated. These modifications may include an expedited amendment process for items that increase waste utilization. Incentivize regional planning. Three main options are available for consideration, 1) keep planning process as is with no changes, 2) support the previous planning process amendment recommendations, 3) develop a simplified planning process that incentivizes regional plans and utilization activities.

Technical Reviews (Construction certifications, new cells, hydro reviews, HMP, etc.) – Engineering and Technical staff will evaluate the program needs further.

Recycling/Composting (tech assistance) – At least 5 additional FTEs necessary to implement composting amendments to Part 115. (Interest is increasing in organic waste utilization) and expand recycling/utilization efforts. Economic development, markets, measurement, commercial, institutional, residential, and business recycling/waste utilization all need to be considered.

Enforcement (escalated) – Enforcement staff will evaluate.

Inspections (compliance) – It is recognized that as Michigan shifts efforts to foster increased waste utilization a similar shift in solid waste program staff will be necessary to appropriately regulate solid waste utilization activities. . It is recommended that less effort be placed on inspecting permitted solid waste facilities so that increased staff time may be spent on regulating utilization activities. It is recommended that landfills receive 4 inspections per year, transfer stations receive one per year, and processing plants receive 2 per year. Additionally, increased inspections of composting facilities, recycling facilities, waste approval locations, Type B transfer stations (as needed) closed landfills (1 to 2 per year), and industrial sludge land application sites are necessary.

Complaint response – It is recommended that local units of government continue to be the lead on responding to complaints at non-licensed facilities. The DEQ will continue to provide support as needed and respond to complaints at licensed facilities.

Waste Approvals (Beneficial reuse, inert designations, etc.) – It is recommended that the current staff level, with some assistance from the expanded recycling program staff, will maintain the current level of effort for waste approvals.

Outreach (web, environmental education, FAQ's, etc.) – It is recommended that the outreach staff person (1 FTE) who was previously housed in Office of Environmental Assistance be replaced.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) – It is recommended that the current level of FTEs and staff involvement be maintained for the SWAC.

Policy & Rule Development – It is recommended that the current level of FTEs be maintained for policy and rule development.

Internal/External Committees – It is recommended that the current level of FTEs be maintained with the internal and external committee involvement being spread around to the additional staff.

Remedial Action Plans – It is recommended that the current level of FTEs be maintained if the financial assurance and fee collection responsibilities are shifted to additional staff.

Yard Clippings/Compost Registrations – It is recommended that the current level of FTEs be maintained for managing the registration portion of the composting program. Additional FTEs are necessary to implement the program.

Legislative Reports (Annual Solid Waste Report, Activities Report, etc.) – In general the data required to be reported is useful, however it is recommended that DEQ redesign the reports to be more useful for promoting waste utilization.

Financial Assurance Reviews – It is recommended that the financial assurance reviews, surcharge collection, and legislative report be assigned to an additional FTE that was eliminated. The responsibilities are currently assigned to the landfill engineer and geologist positions.

Solid Waste Alternative Program Grants (SWAP) – there is currently minimal program involvement in the remaining SWAP grant. Current FTE level is adequate.

Technical Support for other Divisions – Current FTE level is adequate for assistance to the mining program, dredge projects, and soil relocation.

Solid Waste Surcharge Collection – Current level of staff is adequate if an additional FTE is added for financial assurance reviews. Approximately 20% of an FTE is required for surcharge collection currently. If the surcharge is broadened it is anticipated additional staff resources will be necessary.

Legislative Assistance – Current FTE level is adequate.

Staff Training – Additional resources are required for additional staff training. It is recognized that the anticipated increase in waste utilization efforts will require expanded staff training in those program areas.

Legislative Bill Analyses – Current FTE level is adequate.

Environmental Monitoring/Sampling – It is recommended that select wells be evaluated every two years through split sampling. The program should be audited in other areas. Additional funds will be necessary if environmental monitoring expands to additional solid waste program areas.

Other Activities

Emerging Waste Management Technologies - Current FTE level is adequate.

Solid Waste Utilization and Recycling Measurement – No additional FTEs will be necessary if DEQ acts in a support function for the measurement system that will be designed.

Ewaste – An additional 2.5 FTEs are necessary to fully implement the ewaste program as currently designed. If the program is amended to be more self-implementing then an additional 1 FTE is required.

Scrap Tire Program – Current FTE level is adequate. Program is shifting resources to expand market development efforts.