



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

September 15, 2004

Mr. James L. Banks, Chair
Ionia County Board of Commissioners
100 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

Dear Mr. Banks:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received the locally-approved amendment to the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan Amendment) on February 9, 2004.

This Plan Amendment modifies surcharges on solid waste disposal facilities, redefines recycling and composting programs, and defines a time line for road access in the event of new facility site proposals or current site alterations.

This letter hereby approves the Plan Amendment. The DEQ has determined that this Plan Amendment complies with the provisions of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the Part 115 administrative rules. Additionally, the DEQ would like to thank Ionia County for its efforts in addressing solid waste management issues.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rhonda Oyer Zimmerman, Chief, Solid Waste Management Unit, Storage Tank and Solid Waste Section, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, at 517-373-4750, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Chester
Director
517-373-7917

cc: Senator Alan L. Cropsey
Representative Judy K. Emmons
Representative Gary A. Newell
Ms. Elizabeth Robins, Ionia County Resource Recovery Coordinator
Mr. Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, DEQ
Ms. Carol Linteau, Legislative Liaison, DEQ
Mr. George W. Bruchmann, DEQ
Ms. Liane Shekter Smith, DEQ
Mr. Lonnie C. Lee, DEQ
Ms. Amy Lachance, DEQ
Ms. Rhonda Oyer Zimmerman, DEQ
Ms. Noelle Hartner, DEQ
Ionia County File



Ionia County Board of Commissioners

100 West Main Street • Courthouse • Ionia MI 48846

616.527.5300 • Fax: 616.527.5380

July 27, 2004

Ms. Rhonda Oyer Zimmerman
Solid Waste Management Unit
Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Oyer Zimmerman:

In response to your letter dated July 7, 2004, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests the DEQ to approve the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Plan Amendments with the recommended modifications.

Ionia County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on July 26, 2004 and reviewed the recommended changes to the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Amendment regarding the Surcharges section.

Page III-47, under Surcharges, the current text will be deleted and replaced with the following:

Facility User Fee: In order to finance the implementation of Part 115 County Solid Waste Management Plan, Ionia County (County) imposes a user fee upon all solid waste deposited and/or processed at facilities located within the County. Any previous county memorandum, contract, resolution, or ordinance regarding a user fee or surcharge is repealed and voided unless a different user fee is agreed to through a "host contract" between Ionia County and a particular facility, the following user fee is established based on each ton deposited and/or processed in the facility:

\$1 per ton of waste accepted for deposit and/or processed.

In the event that the facility does not weigh waste, a ratio of 3 to 1 cubic yards to a ton shall be used to calculate the user fee.

Waste & Hazardous
Materials Division

AUG 06 2004

The County may enforce the user fee through a solid waste ordinance with civil and/or criminal sanctions if the fee is not collected and remitted.

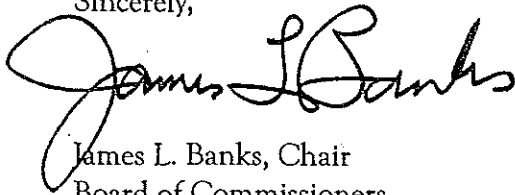
Each facility owner or operator must remit the user fee to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners on a monthly basis. On a form selected by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, the facility owner or operator shall also provide monthly reports to the County identifying the gross amount of the paid receipts and/or solid waste collected during the preceding month. The county must receive all monthly reports and collected user fees no later than the 10th day of the succeeding month.

In order to encourage the development of resource recovery facilities, user fees shall not be imposed on material that is recycled at resource recovery facilities.

Host Contract: is defined as a written contract that is approved and signed by the owner of a "facility" as defined in rule 103 of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, administrative rules; and the Ionia Board of Commissioners (BOC), after approval in a public meeting, by the BOC.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the approval of the Ionia County Solid Waste Plan Amendments. If there is anything further you require, please contact Elizabeth Robins, Resource Recovery Coordinator at 616-527-8219 or myself.

Sincerely,



James L. Banks, Chair
Board of Commissioners
Ionia County

Enclosure: copy of 7/26/04 Board Minutes

cc: Elizabeth Robins, Resource Recovery Coordinator



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



ANNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

July 7, 2004

Ms. Elizabeth Robbins
Ground Water Technician &
Resource Recovery Coordinator
Ionia County
100 Library Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

Dear Ms. Robbins:

This letter is a follow-up to our conversation on June 21, 2004, regarding resolving an approval issue in the Ionia County Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment (Amendment).

In order to be able to recommend approval of the Amendment, the following change will need to be made. The modification would not actually be made to the text of the document, but rather, would be made by reference in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approval letter for the Amendment.

Page III-47, under Surcharges, the current text will be deleted and replaced with the following:

Facility User Fee: In order to finance the implementation of Part 115 County Solid Waste Management Plan, Ionia County (County) imposes a user fee upon all solid waste deposited and/or processed at facilities located within the County. Any previous County memorandum, contract, resolution or ordinance regarding a user fee or surcharge is repealed and voided unless a different user fee is agreed to through a "host contract" between Ionia County and a particular facility, the following user fee is established based on each ton deposited and/or processed in the facility:

\$1 per ton of waste accepted for deposit and/or processed.

In the event that the facility does not weigh waste, a ratio of 3 to 1 cubic yards to a ton shall be used to calculate the user fee.

The County may enforce the user fee through a solid waste ordinance with civil and/or criminal sanctions if the fee is not collected and remitted.

Each facility owner or operator must remit the user fee to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners on a monthly basis. On a form selected by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, the facility owner or operator shall also provide monthly reports to the County identifying the gross amount of the paid receipts and/or solid waste collected during the preceding month. The County must receive all monthly reports and collected user fees no later than the 10th day of the succeeding month.

In order to encourage the development of resource recovery facilities, user fees shall not be imposed on material that is recycled at resource recovery facilities.

Host Contract: is defined as a written contract that is approved and signed by the owner of a "facility" as defined in Rule 103 of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, administrative rules; and the Ionia County Board of Commissioners (BOC), after approval in a public meeting, by the BOC.

If the County agrees with the DEQ administratively making this modification to the Amendment as part of the DEQ's approval of the Amendment, please have a party who is authorized to act on behalf of the County provide a letter to the DEQ indicating the County's agreement with this change and requesting that the DEQ issue its approval with this modification. An example of such a letter is enclosed.

The DEQ believes that the Amendment is not approvable without the modification outlined above. If the County decides not to agree to have the DEQ make this change as part of the approval process, the Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD) will recommend that the DEQ not approve the Amendment as written.

Per your request, a copy of the official approved Solid Waste Management Plan for Ionia County is also enclosed.

If you need additional information, please contact Ms. Christina Miller, Storage Tank and Solid Waste Section, WHMD, at 517-373-4741, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Oyer Zimmerman, Chief
Solid Waste Management Unit
Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
517-373-4750

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Mark Howe, Ionia County Administrator
Mr. Lonnie C. Lee, DEQ
Ms. Christina Miller, DEQ
Ms. Noelle Hartner, DEQ
Ionia County File

SELECTED SYSTEM
this Plan.

Facility User Fee:

In order to finance the implementation of a Part 115 County Solid Waste Management Plan, Ionia County imposes a user fee upon all solid waste disposed at facilities located within the County. Any previous memorandum, contract, resolution or ordinance regarding a user fee or surcharge is repealed and voided. By new contract, resolution, and/or ordinance, subsequent to the date of the amendment to the Plan, which added this section, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners will set the amount and method for determining the user fee, among the following three alternatives:

- (1) Percentage of the facility's monetary gate receipts;
- (2) Fixed amount per weight deposited; or
- (3) Fixed amount per volume deposited.

Each facility owner or operator must remit the user fees to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners on a monthly basis. Also, on a form selected by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, the facility owner or operator shall also provide monthly reports to the County identifying the gross amount of the paid receipts and/or solid waste collected, deposited and/or recycled or diverted from the solid waste stream during the preceding month. The County must receive all monthly reports and collected user fees no later than the 10th day of the succeeding month.

In order to encourage the development of resource recovery, user fees shall not be imposed on material that is recycled or otherwise diverted from the waste stream at resource recovery or solid waste disposal facilities.

Amendment

SELECTED SYSTEM

has more than 25 dwelling units, the proposal is inconsistent with this Plan.

3. Road Access

To be consistent with the Plan, a proposed disposal facility's site must provide direct access to all-season roads. If a proposal for a disposal facility includes or assumes year-round traffic to off-site sources of cover material, the proposal must include all-season road access provisions for this function. A proposal will be found consistent with the road access requirement of the Plan if it contains a written statement whereby the applicant agrees to upgrade or pay for the road commission to upgrade direct access roads to the facility to all-season standards based on AASHTO specifications as cited below, at no direct charge to the County or local governments, within one year after the date on which the proposal is approved or otherwise found to be Plan consistent by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners. The Board may approve a grant contract, using Facility User Fee Revenue to assist the applicant in paying for the upgrade of the facility access road(s) as required herein. A 66 foot easement recorded on the deed of a land-locked parcel qualifies as having road frontage, but does negate the necessity for the access road to be of all-season construction.

In Ionia County all interstate and state highways, except M-50 westward from the vicinity of Tasker Road, are all-season roads (as of summer 1991). As determined by the Ionia County Road Commission, the following county roads are all-season roads: Grand River Avenue throughout the County; Tuttle Road and Riverside Drive between Harwood and Kelsey Roads; Harwood and Kelsey Roads between Tuttle Road and Riverside Drive; Hubbardston Road between Nickel Plate Road and M-21; and Fisk Road between Montcalm Avenue and Whitesbridge Road. As structural changes occur on particular roads, the appropriate governmental agency will apply proper standards to keep the classification of those roads current. For county roads, the Ionia County Road Commission identifies all-season status, the design and construction must conform to AASHTO standards, as set forth in Design Guidelines...Adopted for All-Season Roads (revised January 1989). Before and during construction, the developer will provide design information to the Ionia County Road Commission and will consult with that agency as needed throughout the life of the facility.

4. Isolation distances (at the time of application for a determination of consistency under this Plan)

To be consistent with this Plan, the active filling or working area of any proposed disposal facility must be isolated from other land uses or property lines as follows:

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Setback Standard</u>
i) Existing domiciles	300' from property line
ii) Public water supply wells	2,000' for landfills,

SELECTED SYSTEM
RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

The following is a brief analysis of the recycling and composting programs selected for the County in this Plan. Additional information on operation of recycling and composting programs is included in Appendix A. The analysis covers various factors within the County and the impacts of these factors on recycling and composting. Following the written analysis the tables on pages III-18, 19, & 20 list the existing recycling, composting, and source separation of hazardous materials programs that are currently active in the County and which will be continued as part of this Plan. The second group of three tables on pages III-21, 22, & 23 list the recycling, composting, and source separation of hazardous materials programs that are proposed in the future for the County. It is not this Plan update's intent to prohibit additional programs or expansions of current programs to be implemented beyond those listed.

Recycling services are provided primarily by the private sector in Ionia County. Haulers provide curbside collection for almost 100% of county residents for a fee. This systems provides good service and is practical to the more rural areas of the county. Curbside service to the more rural areas of the county is less efficient due to the large distances between pickups. Residents do use these services because of convenience, but two free drop-offs are available for residents who would prefer not to pay or have curbside pickup. Pitsch Landfill provides the convenience of a daily opportunity for recycling, and Ionia County provides a centrally located drop-off that is open only one day a month.

Composting is also provided curbside by private haulers, but also by local municipalities who provide spring and fall pick-up of leaves and grass. The collected materials are composted at municipal facilities or land applied in agricultural areas.

Household hazardous waste collection and agricultural pesticide collection is also provided through the Ionia County Resource Recovery Project. This collection is provided through a permanent collection facility and three satellite collection sites.

It shall be a goal of this Plan for Ionia County to increase the number of recycling drop-off sites and frequency of open days at each site beyond what is depicted on Table III-1. Also, it shall be a goal of this Plan for Ionia County to increase the number of composting sites beyond what is depicted on Table III-2. Finally, it shall be the goal of this Plan for the Ionia County Board of Commissioners to approve, from time to time, resource recovery programs beyond those specified in this Plan in order to benefit the citizens of Ionia County and to promote the efficient use of land filling and incineration at disposal facilities.

DEFINITION OF "HOST CONTRACT"

(For purposes of the "Plan," "host contract" shall mean a written contract that is approved and signed by the owner of a "facility," as that term is used in Part 115, and Ionia County, after approval in a public meeting by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners.