



TRANSBOUNDARY WASTE MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - FINAL REPORT

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and U.S. EPA Region 5 (EPA) conducted a joint initiative in 2005 to monitor the disposal of Canadian and domestic MSW in eight landfills. The eight landfills that were monitored received almost all of the Canadian solid waste disposed of in Michigan landfills in 2005. Private contractor personnel characterized incoming waste and documented whether the inspected loads appeared to be in accordance with state and federal laws. A total of 246 weekly random inspections, which included 1,481 truckloads and 75,550 cubic yards of MSW were inspected. EPA and MDEQ worked closely together on all phases of the planning, implementation and follow up from the inspections. The inspection program successfully accomplished the initial goals, which were to:

- Conduct regular random inspections of incoming loads to ensure that prohibited items are not placed in the landfills;
- Ensure that out-of-state shipments meet Michigan's environmental standards and have all appropriate documentation;
- Sample suspicious loads for the presence of hazardous waste and other materials of concern; and
- Report problems or suspicious loads to appropriate authorities for investigation and follow up.

Data collected during the seven months of inspections showed:

- Most of the inspected Canadian shipments, Michigan shipments, and out-of-state shipments appeared to comply with Michigan's solid waste laws.
- 8.5 percent of the inspected Michigan truckloads, 6.6 percent of the inspected Canadian truckloads, and 2.8 percent of the inspected truckloads from other states contained Freon appliances or other materials potentially prohibited under Michigan's solid waste laws (excluding beverage containers, whole tires and yard clippings, which are reported below).
- Michigan's solid waste laws also limit the disposal of beverage containers, whole tires, and yard clippings in MSW landfills. Of the inspected loads, 5.4 percent of Michigan loads potentially exceeded the limits, and 5.5 percent of the Canadian loads potentially exceeded the limits.
- Outreach documents providing best management practices (including improved screening methods) are being developed to help generators, landfills and transfer stations further reduce occurrences of prohibited materials in the future.

For a copy of the final report, please go to <http://www.michigan.gov/deqwaste>
or <http://epa.gov/region5/solidwaste>

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