

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: February 12, 2005

LOCATION: Northern Transfer Station

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Lindberg
Edward Wesnofske
Raymond Halgas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Buck

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Chichester
Melissa Morlang
Terry Bliss

1. Opening

Chairman Lindberg opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

2. Review of Recycling Box Placement at the Northern Transfer Station

The committee members scheduled this visit to the Northern Transfer Station in response to concerns raised by Terry Bliss at the Operations Committee meeting on February 11th.

The following points were considered:

a The current situation --

The boxes used at this site are 40 cubic yards in size and had been used in the past but they were loaded from the top, which required that residents ascend a set of stairs to a platform. This setup was eliminated due to the congestion it caused with the waste tip wall at the Northern Transfer Station as well as the safety hazard created with residents of all ages having to use the stairs in all kinds of weather conditions.

To make the boxes usable from the ground, holes have been cut in the sides with doors being attached. A 40 cubic yard box is 7 feet high from the floor to the top of the wall. This made for the current problem with filling the container. From the side doors, from the ground level, the boxes can only be partially filled. To facilitate the filling of the box, the attendant began using a step ladder to dump recyclable materials into the holes in the cover on top of the box. At times, residents were also using the ladder.

Also to facilitate the loading of the boxes, material was thrown through the split

door to the box situated on one end. This helped get more material in the box.

Without loading the box from the top, it would not be possible to totally fill the box. It was explained that this was important given that the boxes were hauled in tandem directly from the site to the MRF in Syracuse.

b The desired option:

Terry Bliss suggested that the differential in elevation that exists in the area currently being used to stage the boxes be used to facilitate the use of a platform that would once again allow the boxes to be filled from the top.

This scenario was reviewed and it was indicated that the best way to facilitate this would be to construct a “boat dock” type of landing that would allow for residents to walk between the roll off boxes and fill from the top. This would require constructing concrete walls with railings along with concrete pads for the placement of the boxes.

Cost estimates were discussed for this work.

c The Capacity Issue:

The situation was presented as a logistics problem, i.e. improvements would be developed by way of repositioning the boxes. It was pointed out, based upon the discussion, that a major part of the problem related to the capacity of the boxes on site.

Terry pointed out that on a busy day, even if the boxes were empty at the beginning of the day, there would not be sufficient space to hold all the material delivered by residents. The repositioning of the boxes, actually left him with less capacity than he currently has.

d The Haulers Responsibility:

The County currently has a fixed rate contract with the hauler. It was felt that it was the haulers responsibility to pull the boxes when they had reached their capacity with residents loading the boxes from the ground level only. Clearly, the step ladder was a safety issue and its use should be immediately discontinued.

It was suggested that the use of boxes designed for the purpose might help the situation.

Concern was issued with the hauler pulling boxes during the collection period.

This could result in the interruption of traffic flow.

e Compactor Boxes --

The use of compactor boxes was also suggested. However, this would also require the construction of retainer walls and pads. This had been discussed with the previous manager for Vet's Sanitation. This would enhance the economics of hauling material from this site.

f The Current Site Layout --

The layout of the site was also discussed. The structures in place facilitated the collection of waste and recyclables using different equipment. If the site was reconfigured, it would allow for the consideration of different scenarios that would result in a smoother operation. The structure currently located in the middle of the site was seen to be unusable with the equipment currently being used.

g Conclusions --

At the conclusion of the meeting, the issues and alternatives were reviewed and Terry indicated that he would be discussing them with the Solid Waste Committee at its next meeting on February 17th.

It was further pointed out that if the county did not want to invest in the site, possibly agreement could be reached between the County and the Authority to improve the situation with the Authority taking the lead.

3. Closing

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Gilbert L. Chichester,
Executive Director

(The dimensions of a 40 cubic foot roll off container are: 86 inches wide, 21 feet 8 inches long and 7 feet high. All dimensions are from the inside of the box.)