



OPERATIONAL CONSULTANTS

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Scott Berry, City Manager
City of Raton
224 Savage Avenue
Raton, New Mexico 87740

Re: Raton Transfer Station
Concerns Related to Odor

Dear Mr. Berry,

Per our discussions last week, I am providing you with some follow up information concerns possible odors at a transfer station. As we discussed, this concern does arise each time a new transfer station is proposed to be constructed. On the face of it, odor seems like a logical concern, but there are many factors that can affect this issue. So here are some of the reasons that this is not an issue with the proposed location for the new Raton Transfer Station.

1. Type of Transfer Method

The method utilized is the major factor in generating odors from the solid waste during the transfer process from the solid waste trucks and the transport trailer.

There are a wide variety of methods from:

- A. Open-Top Trailer Push Wall Loading
- B. Open Top Trailer Tipping Floor then Push In
- C. Open Top Trailer – Direct Dump
- D. Compactor Transfer - Push System
- E. Expandable Wall Trailer – Direct Dump

The method the City chose is the best method, expandable wall trailer, of maintaining any odor problem that may arise.

All the other methods require disturbance of the solid waste in the process. The solid waste vehicle unloads the materials on a floor pushing into the trailer or directly into the top of the trailer, falling 10 feet causing a disturbance.

With the expandable wall system the solid waste load goes directly into the transfer trailer with minimal disturbance. The compacted load is placed right in the trailer and then the trailer slowly moves the load to the front, awaiting the next load.

2. Facility Design

The next factor is the design of the facility. This operation will be inside a large building. The transfer trailers/trucks and the solid waste vehicles will be total inside the building when the transferring of waste occurs. The photos included in this letter are of the Greentree Transfer Station & Recycling Center located in Ruidoso Downs, NM. This facility was constructed and opened in 2005.

As you can see from the outside, a person cannot even identify this as a solid waste facility, a very clean operation, **operating for over 12 years.**



3. Dissipation of Odors

Similar to smoke from a campfire, odors will disburse in the air. With the transfer of the solid waste in the enclosed building this will limit the travel distance. And like the campfire, the distance and air movement will dissipate the odor, if any.

The other issue is the residential waste, where the majority of odors may be present, is combined with the commercial waste in the collection vehicles. The same trucks that collect the residential also collect the commercial waste in the same loads. Commercial waste is predominately cardboard and paper products. This material absorbs the moisture that may be generating the odors, assisting with containment.

4. Operational Procedures

The City will include in the Operations Plan, provisions for loads with above normal odors present. If above normal odors are present the City would transport that load to the landfill immediately, even if the transport trailer is not completely full.

Currently, the City is averaging a full transfer trailer load each working day. So the material is being disposed of at the landfill within 24 hours in most cases. There will be occasions where a load may stay longer, such as late on Fridays, to be emptied on Monday. This load would remain in the enclosed (doors closed) building, not subject to the wind or weather.

I hope this helps clarify the issues related to possible odors being a concern. I will be available to answer any question you or your governing council may have.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Lewandowski
Senior Consultant