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 Bob - FYI - Unsolicited "spam fax" - McKelly



Waste Management Facts

Austin Community Landfill

March 1998

"Even Though it is Expensive, Voluntary Cleanup of the Old Industrial Waste Site is the Best Thing to do Environmentally" Jim Nelson, ACL Division Manager

Waste Management filed a plan with the TNRCC in late 1997 to clean up the old Industrial Waste Site consisting of 4.5 acres within the permitted boundaries of Austin Community Landfill. Because the Industrial Site is a properly closed and monitored disposal area under TNRCC guidelines, the company is not required to spend the estimated \$10 million necessary to excavate the wastes and re-dispose of them in a more environmentally protective manner. Would most companies in the industry be willing to spend a fortune to do what is right environmentally even though it is not required by law? Probably not. However, Waste Management and Austin Community Landfill will do just that.

Closed in 1972

During the spring of 1971, the Texas Water Quality Board issued an order allowing a company named Industrial Waste Material Management (IWMM) to operate an industrial waste disposal facility near the intersection of U.S. Highway 290 and Giles Road. IWMM was a company owned by John J. Arsenault, so the area is sometimes called the "Arsenault site." The site operated for approximately a year, closing in the spring of 1972 at the direction of the Texas Water Quality Board. The operation and closure of the site occurred long before Waste Management bought Austin Community Landfill.

Industrial Wastes Are Safely Sealed

Records indicate that a variety of wastes were deposited at the IWMM / Arsenault site including primarily spent acids, spent solvents, greases and oils. These are typically compounds that have been used as lubricating oils, industrial cleaners, manufacturing byproducts and other industrial applications. During the 1970s and 1980s, a series of steps were taken to isolate the waste into the 4.5 acre area and to prevent it from escaping to the environment. The disposal site has been monitored with observation wells to ensure no materials were released.

Why Not Leave the Industrial Waste In Place?

Leaving the industrial waste site alone and constructing future solid waste disposal capacity over the old industrial site was considered and, in fact, would be a reasonable course of action. It would be much less expensive and would still be protective of the environment. Why move it then? The people of Waste Management, including Jim

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Nelson, Austin Community Landfill Division Manager, believed that cleaning up the old industrial site would be the **best** course of action. It would eliminate any future potential risk and allow destruction or proper disposal of the industrial wastes.

Going the Extra Mile for Environmental Protection

Waste Management and Austin Community Landfill made the decision to synthetically line with High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and recompacted clay all of the newly constructed cells built to handle solid waste (normal residential and commercial garbage). This decision was made in 1993 following the promulgation of new RCRA Subtitle D regulations by the EPA. **At Waste Management, we believe that the choice is clear: for new construction of landfill cells, the best environmentally protective decision is to synthetically line the cells.**

The Cleanup Plan

Once the TNRCC approves the plan submitted by Waste Management and Austin Community Landfill to excavate the industrial waste, the cleanup will begin. The wastes will be tested to determine the levels of contaminants such as petroleum hydrocarbons, metals and organic chemicals. The wastes will then be classified under the EPA and TNRCC rules and regulations and will be disposed of properly. The actual disposal methods range from shipping the wastes to permitted waste incinerators, to disposal in a synthetically lined, permitted disposal areas for materials with lower levels of contamination.

Every Company Should Choose the Best Environmental Action

At Waste Management and Austin Community Landfill, we believe that what is good for the environment and the communities we live in will be good for our business as well. We hope our customers -- the residents, businesses and leaders in the communities we serve -- recognize that, while it may cost more to cleanup an old industrial site or to put synthetic HDPE liners in landfill disposal cells, it is the most environmentally responsible action we can take now to protect the future for our children and grandchildren. We challenge other companies in our industry, and especially those located in the Austin area, to make the decision to provide the extra protection to our environment, not because they have to, but because it is the right thing to do.

Questions? Contact Loren Alexander of Waste Management at (512) 272-6222.