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MEDIA CONTACT: Erin Strouse, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Jed Thorp, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Issues Air and Water Permits for Perry County Landfill

Ohio EPA has issued Tunnel Hill Partners LP a final air permit and a proposed modification to its current wastewater discharge permit. The solid waste permit is still draft. The company is requesting the permits to expand the landfill at 2500 Township Road 205, Route 2 in New Lexington. The landfill spans Pike, Harrison and Clayton townships in Perry County.

Ohio EPA held a public hearing on May 11, 2011, and an information session on June 3, 2010, to explain the proposed expansion, answer questions and receive public comments.

Before issuing the draft permits, Ohio EPA reviewed the technical aspects of the applications and determined that they met the requirements of state and federal clean air and water quality standards and solid waste rules.

Proposed Expansion

The company proposes a 69-acre lateral and vertical expansion at its 544-acre facility. This would bring the landfill's footprint to 118 acres. (Currently, the landfill's developed footprint is 11.7 acres, though it has been previously approved to occupy 49 acres.) The company also proposes an increase of 28.6 million cubic yards of airspace which would bring the landfill's approved capacity to 37.7 million cubic yards. (Currently, the landfill's filled volume is approximately 511,250 cubic yards, though it was previously approved to occupy 9.1 million cubic yards.)

Additionally, the company is seeking to increase the authorized maximum daily waste receipt from 5,000 tons to 8,000 tons. If the landfill took in 8,000 tons of waste per day, it would take 11.5 years to fill. The landfill design includes a composite liner; leachate collection (i.e., the water that has come in contact with buried landfill wastes); surface water management; ground water monitoring; and final closure cap. The permit also would incorporate 30 years of post-closure care and financial assurance for closure and post-closure care.

Final and Draft Permits

The company's solid waste permit is still draft.

Ohio EPA issued the company a final [air permit](#) that establishes allowable emissions from unpaved roadways and parking areas, the municipal solid waste landfill and rail unloading areas based on an anticipated increase in the waste acceptance rate. The air permit also establishes requirements for landfill gas collection and control.

It was incorrectly stated in an April 27, 2011, [news release](#) that Ohio EPA issued a draft modification to the landfill's current wastewater discharge permit. That permit modification was issued as a proposed action on June 29, 2011. The modification was required since the surface area contributing storm water runoff to the sedimentation pond will change. The current sedimentation pond, discharge quality and outfall locations would remain the same. In the short term, the surface water discharge would be the same as under the current permit.

The total area draining to the pond discharge point eventually would increase from a proposed 192 acres (as in the current permit) to about 199 acres. The area draining to the sediment pond would include the cap area of the landfill, soil stockpile areas to the west of the landfill and support areas to the south of the existing landfill. Landfill leachate is not permitted to go to the sediment pond. The proposed wastewater permit limits discharges of pollutants into Rush Creek. The discharges may result in a change from current water quality conditions, but they cannot cause violations of water quality standards that protect human health and the environment.

Public Comment Periods and More Information

The proposed wastewater permit modification will take effect September 1, 2011, unless an adjudication hearing is requested; Ohio EPA withdraws and/or revises the modification after considering public comments; or U.S. EPA disapproves the modification.

Interested parties have until July 29, 2011, to request an adjudication hearing at Ohio EPA regarding the proposed wastewater permit modification. Requests for an adjudication hearing should be submitted to: Ohio EPA Legal Records Section, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Additional information is available by calling (614) 644-2115.

Interested parties also have until August 5, 2011, to request a public meeting or submit written comments concerning the proposed permit modification to: Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Additional information is available by calling (614) 644-2001.

Copies of the proposed wastewater modification or draft solid waste permit and related materials are available for review at Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office (2195 Front Street, Logan, Ohio 43138) by first calling (740) 385-8501 or (800) 686-7330.

The final air permit is online at http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/permits_issued/483042.pdf.

Issuance of the final air permit can be appealed to the [Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission \(ERAC\)](#). Many appeals must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC online or at (614) 466-8950 for more information.