



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### **State Announces Results of Applications for Reimbursement of Landfill Permit Costs**

**RALEIGH** – State officials have agreed to reimburse permit application costs incurred by three groups whose proposals to construct landfills could not meet new landfill construction standards adopted by the General Assembly in 2007.

The Solid Waste Management Act of 2007 strengthened regulatory requirements for new landfills in North Carolina. Among its provisions, the law created requirements for buffers between new landfills and certain environmentally-sensitive areas, including national wildlife refuges, state gamelands and parks.

The three applicants had landfill permit applications pending when the legislation passed for sites that could not meet the new buffer requirements. After the solid waste law passed, the General Assembly passed a law that enabled the applicants to request reimbursement of the reasonable costs of preparing the permit applications.

The N.C. Division of Waste Management determined this month that the following companies were eligible for reimbursements, based on the law's requirements:

- Alligator River Recycling, LLC, which proposed a landfill for construction and demolition debris landfill in Hyde County. Alligator River requested \$2.40 million. The state will reimburse them \$742,000.
- Waste Industries USA, Inc. and Black Bear Disposal, LLC, which had a municipal and solid waste landfill project pending in Camden County. Waste Industries and Black Bear Disposal requested \$13.6 million. The state will reimburse them \$775,000.
- Riegel Ridge, LLC and Waste Management of the Carolinas, Inc., which had proposed a municipal and solid waste landfill in Columbus County. Riegel Ridge and Waste Management of the Carolinas requested \$2.37 million. The state will reimburse them \$1.6 million.

Some costs submitted for reimbursement were not allowed to be reimbursed under the law. The division also did not agree to reimburse costs that were unreasonable or lacked any documentation. The Division of Waste Management determined that a fourth request for reimbursement by Riegel Ridge Partners in Columbus County was not eligible for reimbursement based on the statute's criteria. Riegel Ridge Partners had requested \$6.3 million.

The funds for reimbursement will come from a statewide solid waste disposal tax (tip fee) of \$2 per ton of waste disposed at landfills, which was part of the solid waste legislation enacted last year. Funds from the tip fee also will be used for assessment and cleanup of more than 650 old landfills and the improvement of local waste management and reduction programs.

The General Assembly enacted the Solid Waste Management Act of 2007 to strengthen environmental standards for new landfills and provide a source of funding for cleanup of the old landfill sites. The old landfills were built before there were environmental standards in place to prevent groundwater and soil contamination.

The average household in North Carolina produces about 1 ton of solid waste each year. For the average family, the cost to clean up the old landfill sites and provide revenue to local governments for waste management and reduction activities is estimated to be about \$2 a year.

Other generators, such as commercial and industrial sectors, also will pay \$2 per ton of waste disposed.

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“We are pleased to complete the review process for applicants for reimbursement so that full attention can be given to the needed process of assessment and remediation of old landfill sites that exist across the state and to assurance of protection of public health and the environment for our citizens,” said Dexter Matthews, director of the Division of Waste Management.

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