

From: rsorrels
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 4:34 PM
To: District3; Sarah Walters; COB_mail
Cc:
Subject: Placement of transfer station.

Categories: Blue Category

JUN 19 11:00 AM '13
COB-TOC-000000-001000-00
11/13

Ms. Bronson,

I think it is accurate to state that most of the citizens of Ajo feel that the entire solid waste debacle was decided upon long before anyone inquired as to how it would affect Ajo and all of western Pima County. We understand that we are a long way from where the County concentrates its resources, and we also recognize that collectively we are small in number relative to the suburbs of Tucson. Nevertheless, we are citizens. We work, live, vote, pay taxes, all in this county.

Most of us acknowledge that it is reasonable that we pay for our garbage and dump service. Given that no one likes taxes, this becomes inevitable though it will be hard on some of Ajo's families. For sure everyone in town will now hoard their trash until they have a car or truck full before taking it to dump. Mr. Huckleberry's decision to close the Ajo landfill is deeply resented here as no matter what political platitudes are passed our way, it is clear that we were never consulted nor our opinions given any weight in this decision. It was announced, then a meeting was called to justify it. We find it odd and amusing that Mr. Huckleberry acknowledges that our situation is different but wonder just how long it has been since he visited this part of the county that also helps to pay his salary.

The siting of the transfer station can not be done without the intimate involvement of this community. Simply dropping it in the state/county road yard where it abuts two parts of our community, next to the high school ball park and just down the road from our schools is not acceptable. At the very minimum it could be placed at the current dump site. Yes, you'd have to run power, but with all the money you are saving this shouldn't be a major problem. The transfer station generates traffic, waste, pests, odor, noise, etc. It can not be allowed to degrade the quality of our life here in Ajo.

Please understand that while I only speak for myself, I know for a fact this community is passionately concerned about yet another decision being crammed down our throats. A decision that will benefit the profitability of your contractor, but does not address any of our concerns. The transfer station cannot be placed in the road yard. It is time for County staff to actually come up with viable solutions for the problem that you have created by closing the dump. Of course you could continue to operate the dump, but then that is too direct and simple of an answer.

Robert Sorrels
301 E. 2nd Ave.
Ajo, AZ

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 6/19/13
Copy to: DEQ

mari kaestle

From: "mari kaestle" <
Date: Sunday, July 07, 2013 12:14 PM
To: "COB_Mail@pima.gov."
Subject: ajo solid waste transfer station

To: the clerk of the board

Re: (ajo) pima county solid waste ordinances

as a resident of ajo, I protest the proposed location of the new transfer station. By suggesting a location in close proximity to the public school, the sheriff's department, the ajo historic plaza, and the eastside residential community, the county is being disingenuous about the environmental and economic impact of such a facility.

the cost of developing electrical and water infrastructure on the current landfill site is cited as the reason for the decision. **what about the quality of life costs to ajo?**

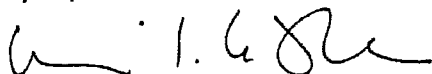
this community has struggled with economic malaise for nearly 30 years. recently, because of combined efforts of the residents, and private and public organizations, ajo is developing a new economy based to a large extent on tourism. our proximity to major ecotourism destinations, our clean, fresh air, quiet days and nights, and small town charm are very appealing to tourists, retirees...and totally beloved and cherished by residents. things are still very fragile here. a odorous, toxic, waste station located in the center of town could tip the scales back into negative growth and development.

is that a plus for the county over the long term?

it seems that only short term goals matter to the board of supervisors...and the life of our community matters not at all.

I believe the new facility must be placed on the existing landfill site. most importantly, the entire ajo community should have a chance to speak and decide about this issue...which means delaying action until the return of winter residents who are nearly 50% of the population.

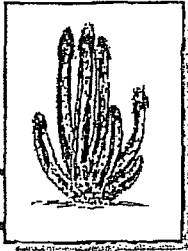
thank you,



the businessman who will operate the waste facility claimed at the most recent meeting that he makes no money on re-cycling. that's a crock.

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DEQ
DATE 7-9-13 BR

7/7/2013



Quality, Affordable, Local Health Care

Desert Senita Community Health Center

April 24, 2013

Sharon Bronson
Pima County Supervisor, District 3
District3@pima.gov

Dear Ms. Bronson:

The purpose of this letter is to express the concern of the Desert Senita Board of Directors regarding the planned closure of the landfill located in Ajo. As you know, Ajo is a small town of approximately 3500 people in an isolated and remote part of Pima County. Even though there will be an option for residential refuse, the closure of the landfill leaves the commercial and some of the residential aspects of Ajo wanting.

Our understanding is; after the landfill closes residents will have the option of taking their household garbage to a transfer station where it will be compacted and trucked to a secondary location, most likely in Tucson, for disposal. This will involve a fee, which may be an issue for our very low income area, and will not accept "Non-household refuse".

We foresee two separate problems. First we have hundreds of square miles of open desert all around Ajo and insufficient law enforcement resources to stop people from using the desert for a "free dump". Second, what will residents do with their "Non-household" refuse such as: refrigerators, tree trimmings, old roof tiles, construction/remodel materials, old tires, engine oil, old paint, etc....? At present, there is NO apparent option for these types of items. They will either end up as pollution in the desert or sitting in the yards of residences, causing a public health or fire hazard.

Next, and just as important, Ajo has local businesses, e.g.: Health Center, Olsen's Grocery, Ajo Unified School District, and many Small Businesses /employers. What will these businesses do with their refuse? Particularly large items, such as pallets, containers, construction materials etc... Additionally, the local landfill currently handles all of the biological refuse from the Pima County Animal Care Center. This biological refuse includes deceased animals, road kill, and euthanized critters taken to the Pima County Animal Care Facility. What will be done with this obvious health hazard if not accepted at the proposed, "Transfer Station"?

To our understanding the closest option for Pima County refuse, will be over 120 miles away in the Tucson area. Tucson is just physically too far to haul Ajo garbage to for disposal in an economically effective way. Desert Senita Community Health Center (DSCHC) is the sole provider of medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services in Western Pima County. DSCHC provided over 13500 medical/dental visits in 2012 for 2964 individual community members. Additionally, DSCHC provides much needed behavioral health services and the DSCHC pharmacy fills more than 3000 prescriptions each month. DSCHC is a non-profit 501(c)

CLERK'S NOTE:

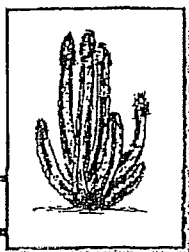
COPY TO SUPERVISORS

410 Malacate Street • Ajo, Arizona 85321 • Phone: (520) 387-5651 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SEQ

DATE - 7-9-12 RD





Quality, Affordable, Local Health Care

Desert Senita Community Health Center

DSCHC and impede our ability to continue offering the same level of services to the residents of Western Pima County.

The Board of Directors for Desert Senita Community Health Center urges the Pima County Board of Supervisors to consider alternative options for Western Pima County. A few alternatives are: (1) keeping something similar to the services currently offered, but charging a reasonable fee for disposal; (2) requiring the company managing the local transfer station to take non-household/non-residential garbage for a reasonable fee; and (3) table the decision to close the Ajo landfill until there is an economically feasible option available for our remote, and very low income, isolated community. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this vitally important issue to the Ajo town site before finalizing your decision on the proposed landfill closures in Pima County.

Sincerely,

Desert Senita Community Health Center Board of Directors

Judy Macey - Spain

Judy Macey-Spain, President

Dick V. Ducic

Dick Ducic, Secretary/Treasurer

Norma Gomez

Norma Gomez, Director

Cyndi K. Sandoval

Cyndi Sandoval, Director

K.A. Mobley

Kenneth Mobley, Director

Cesar Cardenas

Cesar Cardenas, Vice-President

Virginia Garcia

Virginia Garcia, Director

George Gradillas

George Gradillas, Director

Jaime Kesler, Director

Jaime Kesler



From: Bill
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 12:04 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Solid Waste in Ajo

As a concerned Citizen of Ajo for the past 20 years, I would like the County Supervisors to Slow their pace on the Ajo Landfill, As a retiree in Civil Engineering I believe the Supervisors acted to quickly in Procuring a Contract at the Landfill, We now have 2 individuals relocated in other positions in the County here in Ajo and we now have a Multi-Million Dollar Contract for Solid Waste removal which only are doing the same job, using the same Equipment and adding too the Burden of our overall Taxes and wasted spending of those tax dollars and we can see no future avenue for our facilities. We in Civil Engineering were warned 40 years ago that Waste in our country would over take our resources by 2020.

Furthermore, we should remember that our Air Quality isn't only covered by the County but is also covered by State and Federal regulations which should be adhered too.


You as Supervisors has only added to our cost by not having a complete plan but a plan as you go for removal of waste in our Town. Paying is a part of our cost of living and I believe there should be a fee, but some poor people were Born and have live here and need a break in cost to place their rubbish in the landfill. The largest population (Winter Residents) can afford a fee.

Thank you very much putting this into the Official Documentation to the Pima County Board of Supervisors at their Meeting which will cover the Solid Waste in the Western Pima County Town of Ajo.

Billie F. Riner
200 W. 1st Ave
Ajo, AZ 85321

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2013
CLERK'S OFFICE
PIMA COUNTY

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 7/10/13 

From: thomas rawson
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 11:47 AM
To: Deb Miller
Subject: Fwd: Pima County Changes Landfill and Transfer Station Operations

Remember this email exchange?

Exactly as I predicted. The project is getting rammed thru regardless of public objection. We all know how this works. Hold a few public hearings as the law requires. Lull everyone into complacency by saying things like "Nothing is going to change right now." Hand over responsibility to a private contractor who has managed to influence our public officials (that's you) and let them screw us. This is not going to sit well in the next election.

Tom Rawson
5 acres

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deb Miller
Date: June 3, 2013 8:49:12 AM PDT
To:
Cc: Ursula Kramer _____ Dave Eaker _____
Kiki Navarro <Kiki.navarro@pima.gov>, Jennifer Cabrera <Jennifer.Cabrera@pima.gov>
Subject: FW: Pima County Changes Landfill and Transfer Station Operations


Mr. Rawson,

The only change at the Ajo Landfill right now is hours of operation have changed....they have more days that are open to Ajo residents (Monday – Friday and ½ day on Saturday). (People need it on WEEKENDS when they are not working.) Also the operation of the landfill is being managed and operated by TRWS instead of Pima County. (Translated: Washed our hands of it. Now it's TRWS who screws you. Not us.)

You can still take all your trash to the landfill, just like you have in the past. (for a short period) No decision to close the landfill and open a transfer station has been made. (It's coming!) No decision to charge a fee has been made and if fees are assessed in the future the public will have ample opportunity to express their opinions (required by law, then ignored) and any fee charged must (and will) be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding and if you have any more questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let us know.

Deb Miller

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DATE 7/24/13 

Special Staff Assistant
Supervisor Sharon Bronson
District 3, Pima County
520-724-8051

From: thomas rawson
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:00 PM
To: Deb Miller
Subject: Re: Pima County Changes Landfill and Transfer Station Operations

Typical ram it down your throat bureaucracy. To hell with what the public wants. So much for don't worry nothing is going to change right away. Another reason not to come to Ajo.

Tom Rawson
5 acres

On May 30, 2013, at 2:41 PM, Deb Miller wrote:

Hello All,

Please see Media Release concerning the Ajo Landfill Operations that was issued this morning.

If you have any questions please let us know or you can call Tucson Recycling and Waste Services at 623-7300.

Have a good afternoon.

Deb Miller
Special Staff Assistant
Supervisor Sharon Bronson
District 3, Pima County
520-724-8051

From: Beth Gorman
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 10:56 AM
Subject: Pima County Changes Landfill and Transfer Station Operations

Good Morning,

Below and attached is information regarding the upcoming change in operations for the Pima County landfills and transfer stations. Please feel free to contact me at (520) 724-7446, if you have questions or would like additional information.

Thank you.

Beth Gorman
Pima County DEQ
724-7446

<image002.jpg>

MEDIA RELEASE

**Contact: Beth
Gorman**

For Immediate Release
(520) 724-7446; (520) 603-0358

(c)

May 30, 2013

Pima County Changes Landfill and Transfer Station Operations

PIMA COUNTY, AZ - On May 14, 2013, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved the contract for Tucson Recycling and Waste Services, L.L.C. to provide outsourcing of landfill and transfer station operations. Beginning June 1, 2013, the contractor will provide solid waste services at the three Pima County landfills, two transfer stations, and two rural collection centers and continue to accept the same materials that were accepted under County operations. Two rural collection centers in Lukeville and Why will be discontinued.

Pima County will continue to own the waste collection facilities; and with the new contractor, the County will save an estimated \$250,000 in an annual operating expenses. Benefits associated with the contract include the continuation of solid waste services at the Sahuarita landfill with the installation of a transfer station after the landfill reaches maximum capacity in the near future; expanded hours of operation and acceptance of mixed stream recycling at the Ajo landfill; year-round acceptance of green waste at the Catalina Transfer Station; and continued operation of the Ryan Field transfer station.

For information regarding solid waste disposal services after June 1, please call Tucson Recycling and Waste Services at (520) 623-7300.

###

Beth Gorman

Senior Program Manager
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality
33 N. Stone Avenue, 7th floor – DT-BAB7-415
Tucson, Arizona 85701

(520) 724-7446 office **please note: phone number has changed**

(520) 603-0358 cell

Beth.gorman@pima.gov

www.deq.pima.gov

www.AirInfoNow.org

www.PimaCleanAir.com

Eco Kids Corner is at www.pima.gov/deq

Walter A. Puciata

231 E 4th Ave

Ajo, AZ 85321

July 28, 2013 Re: 8/6 Meeting :Ajo, Solid Waste Fees & Proposed Transfer Station

Clerk of the Board
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

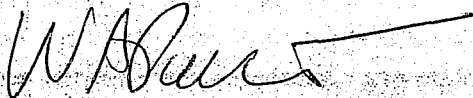
Dear Clerk of the Board,

I am sending with the enclosed letter to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, attached documents for their upcoming Meeting on August 6th.

Would you kindly, please copy, staple and distribute this to each Supervisor so that they may have an opportunity to review before August 6?


Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,



Walter A. Puciata
Attachments

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 7/30/13 

Walter A. Puciata

231 E 4th Ave
Ajo, AZ 85321

July 28, 2013 Re: 8/6 Meeting :Ajo, Solid Waste Fees & Proposed Transfer Station

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

To: All Pima County Supervisors,

Pima County is about to establish and impliment new, privatized Solid Waste fees County wide, including for Ajo. An Ajo Waste Transfer Station is also being considered.

You may not know this, but until now, there has been *no* fee to use the Ajo landfill. But now with us facing fees, our biggest concern is not the fees themselves, for most people will pay them. Our grave concern is *what will happen with those who can not--or will not--pay the fee*, and choose to dump their waste, including broken washing machines, refrigerators, old sofas, etc in the prestine desert which surrounds Ajo.

It's not a matter of whether or not this will happen. *It will happen* because—unlike in an urban area, one need only drive just a mile in any direction away from Ajo, and be in the middle of the Desert, unnoticed. Policing wildcat dumping and cleaning up afterwards is going to take a lot of County funds and manpower. And tons of airbourne paper & plastic will be blown for miles in every direction, hanging from every cactus and thorn branched tree. Would you like for this to happen to the beautiful Desert Museum near Tucson, or near *your* home?

What we would like the Board to consider, as a preventative measure, is either eliminate the Solid Waste fee for low income families in Ajo, or reduce it so low, that low income families will not wildcat dump.

As for the proposed Solid Waste Transfer station (TS) which was announced to the Western Pima County Community Council on May 3th, (please see the enclosed/ attached pages, showing the Ajo Copper News reporting and the small map showing the location of the proposed TS), Ajo citizens have already sent Supervisor Bronson over 200 emails about this. We are strongly apposed to a Transfer Station being located anywhere near or School or residential neighborhoods, where families and children live

Page two; Pima Board of Supervisors

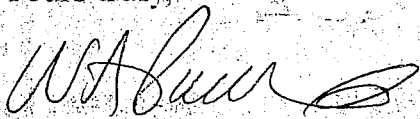
and play. Would you like Pima County to place a Transfer Station in your back yard, as is shown in the attached map? Of course not. We therefore urge you to take preventative measures to make sure this does NOT happen to our small community. (Please see attached 2 pages from a EPA Booklet, Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual For Decision Making).

County Administer Chuck Hucleberry has stated that there are alternate locations for a Transfer Station, but to date, over three months since the proposed location for the transfer station was announced, our community has not been told what that alternate location will be. Can you understand how nervous this continues to make us feel?

We trust that the Board will do what is right regarding Ajo. We know we are a very small community and so far removed from the rest of the County population. Please do not let that fact cause you to in anyway neglect us. You are our elected representatives.

Thank you for valauing & listening to our small voices.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Puciata', followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Walter A. Puciata

attachments

Landfill issues packed WPCCC m

More than 100 people filled the large training room at the Ajo Ambulance office last Thursday for the monthly meeting of the Western Pima County Community Council. While a list of topics was discussed, it was clear the majority of the audience was on hand to hear about the landfill.

Ursula Kramer, director of Pima County Department of Environmental Quality; Dave Eaker, deputy director of Pima County DEQ; and Larry Henk, owner of Tucson Recycling & Waste Services, took to the microphones to address the audience.

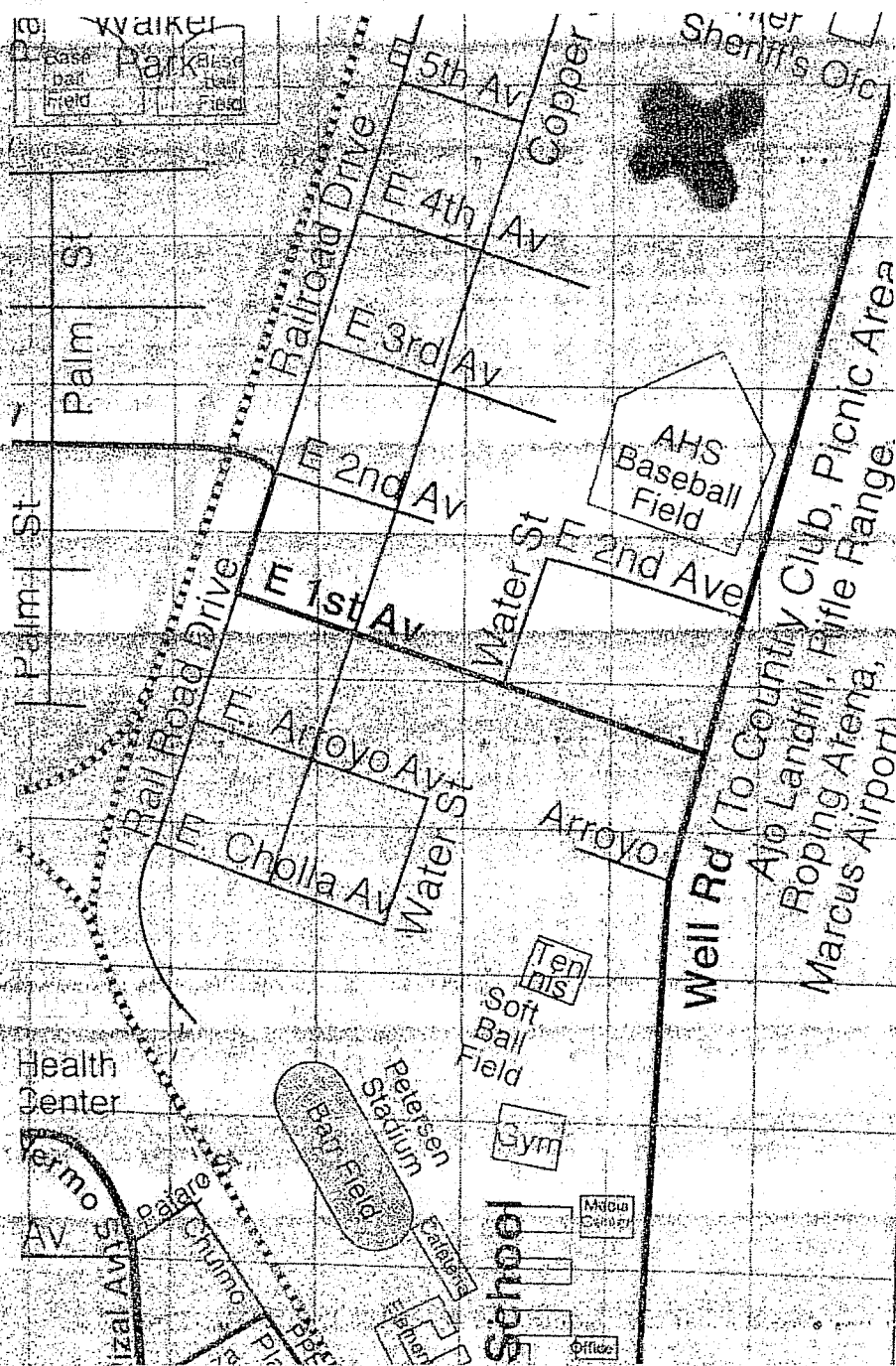
70 cubic yards of waste was deposited. He said the trash that day, once compacted, would be around 9 tons. From Ajo it will be transported by truck 50 or so miles to a facility south of Buckeye.

Henk said he would like to bring back Monday service at the landfill. He said he is willing to put roll-off boxes for recycling at the transfer station or landfill if the community wants it. The proposed site for the transfer station is inside the Pima County Department of Transportation yard next to the former DMV office.

A number of people asked how

Commerce accepted at the about \$7. Henk, reminding none of them yet. He said up-bed carried loose (1 if sideboard holds about WPCCC asked if people could be raised to cover the

from Ajo Copper News, May 9, 2013



"X" marks location of proposed Ajo Waste transfer station

From "EPA, Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual For Decision-Making, pg 11"

major disadvantage to building multiple facilities is that the difficulties encountered in siting a single facility can become multiplied.

Future Expansion

Transfer stations are frequently designed to accommodate future expansion. Often, this is accomplished by siting the facility on a larger parcel of land than would otherwise be necessary and preplanning the site and buildings so expansion can occur without negatively affecting other functions on the site or the surrounding community. Although expansion of effective capacity can sometimes be accomplished simply by expanding the hours of operation, this approach is not always effective because the transfer station must accommodate the collection schedules of vehicles delivering waste to the facility. In addition, increased operating hours might not be compatible with the surrounding community.

Site Selection

Identifying a suitable site for a waste transfer station can be a challenging process. Site suitability depends on numerous technical, environmental, economic, social, and political criteria. When selecting a site, a balance needs to be achieved among the multiple criteria that might have competing objectives. For example, a site large enough to accommodate all required functions and possibly future expansion, might not be centrally located in the area where waste is generated. Likewise, in densely developed urban areas, ideal sites that include effective natural buffers simply might not be available. Less than ideal sites may still present the best option due to transportation, environmental, and economic considerations. Yet another set of issues that must be addressed relates to public concern or opposition, particularly from people living or working near the proposed site. The relative weight given to each criteria used in selecting a suitable site will vary by the community's needs and concerns. Whether the site is in an urban, suburban, or rural setting will also play a role in final site selection.

Environmental Justice Considerations

During the site selection process, steps should be taken to ensure that siting decisions are not imposing a disproportionate burden upon low-income or minority communities.

Overburdening a community with negative impact facilities can create health, environmental, and quality of living concerns. It can also have a negative economic impact by lowering property values and hindering community revitalization plans. These are just a few of the reasons environmental justice concerns need to be addressed when selecting a site for a waste transfer station.

The Siting Process and Public Involvement

A siting process that includes continuous public participation is integral to developing a transfer station. The public must be a legitimate partner in the facility siting process to integrate community needs and concerns and to influence the decision-making process.

Addressing public concerns is also essential to building integrity and instituting good communications with the community. Establishing credibility and trust with the public is as

Cont. next pg.

Maximizing Public Committee Participation

Public committees are often convened to assist with developing public policy. To maximize participation, the process should:

- Give committee members a chance to be actively involved.
- Allow the committee to remove the selected facilitator if concerns about objectivity exist.
- Encourage members to discuss relevant concerns and to raise questions or objections freely. Criticisms or challenges should be directed toward the issues; the facilitator should swiftly mitigate personal criticisms.
- Agree on a means to resolve disagreements before they arise.
- Allow members to discuss the results of each meeting with their constituents.
- Provide technical experts to educate participants.
- Distribute literature about upcoming issues before meetings.

Informing the Community

When initiating a siting process, education must be extended beyond the siting committee and include a communitywide outreach initiative. Components of this type of public outreach typically include:

- Special public meetings
- Interviews with local newspapers for feature stories
- Interviews with media editorial boards
- Interviews with broadcast media
- News conferences, press releases, and press kits
- Paid advertising
- Internet sites
- Informational literature
- Direct mail with project updates
- City council/county commission presentations
- Presentations to civic, environmental, religious, and professional groups
- Presentations to neighborhood groups
- Community education programs and workshops
- Reading files located in public libraries or community centers that document the process

Beyond communitywide outreach, initiate specific and targeted contact with key members of potential host communities, and identify community-specific conditions that need to be considered. Individuals might become proponents of the proposed facility if contacted directly for input, rather than opposing it based on misleading secondhand information.

important as addressing environmental, social, and economic concerns about the solid waste facility.² A companion document to this manual, *Waste Transfer Stations: Involved Citizens Make the Difference* (EPA530-K-01-003), provides key information citizens require to be effectively involved in the siting and development process. Two other EPA documents, *Sites for Our Solid Waste: A Guidebook for Effective Public Involvement* (EPA 530-SW-90-019) and *RCRA Public Participation Manual* (EPA530-R-96-007), provide further information and

examples of how to integrate public participation into the waste management facility siting and development process. Following are some general guidelines for developing and implementing a siting process that is open to and integrates meaningful public input.

For publicly developed transfer stations, a good first step by public officials in the site selection process is establishing a siting committee. The committee's main responsibility includes developing criteria to identify and evaluate potential sites. The committee should consist of key individuals who represent various stakeholder interests. These stakeholders might include:

- Community and neighborhood groups.
- Industry and business representatives.
- Civic and public interest groups.
- Environmental organizations.
- Local- and state-elected officials.
- Public officials, such as public works employees and solid waste professionals.
- Academic institutions.

Committee members should be selected to ensure broad geographical representation from across the area to be served by the transfer station. In addition, committee representation should seek gender balance and racial diversity. Volunteer participation should also be solicited.

The committee's meeting times and dates must be planned and scheduled to facilitate attendance by all committee members and other members of the public. Therefore, meeting schedules should avoid conflicts with other major community, cultural, or religious events. To encourage active public participation, meetings should be prominently advertised in the media in a timely manner and be held in facilities accessible to the disabled and located on public transportation routes. Frequently, a facilitator is hired or appointed to keep the meetings focused, to minimize the

2. McMaster Institute of Environment and Health, "Psychological Impacts of the Landfill Siting Process in Two Southern Ontario Communities."