INTRADEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

FILE: Waste Management of North Dakota, Inc., Wahpeton Transfer Station (0362)

TO: Charles R. Hyatt, Director
Division of Waste Management

THROUGH: Diana A. Trussell, Manager
Solid Waste Program
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FROM: Michael P. Miller, Environmental Engineer
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SUBJECT: Permit Application Review

DATE: June 15, 2022

Introduction

On May 27, 2022, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (Department) received a permit application for renewal for the Waste Management of North Dakota, Inc. Wahpeton Transfer Station.

Waste Management of North Dakota, Inc. (WMI) currently owns and operates a transfer station, regulated under Permit 0362 on approximately 2.16 acres located in the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 132 North, Range 47 West in Richland County, ND. WMI is proposing to renew their permit to continue operating a transfer station in the city of Wahpeton. The facility was first permitted in 1980 as “Big Dipper Enterprises”.

Design

The facility consists of two fenced metal-structured buildings. One building contains the scale house office with a maintenance garage. The other building is the transfer station. The facility is an enclosed waste handling facility with roll-up driveway doors and a concrete tipping floor. All unloading and transfer activities are conducted within the transfer station building. There is a drive-on scale located in front of the scale house office building upon entering the property gate. The facility is surrounded by a chain-link fence and has gates which restrict vehicle access. Per year, the facility handles approximately 11,167 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW), and 1,231 tons of recycling materials.
Operation

A Plan of Operation was submitted to the Department as part of the application. In the Plan of Operation, it is stated that trucks will enter the site and be weighed. After being weighed and documented, waste is unloaded within the transfer station building on the tipping floor near a dumping ramp. The waste is inspected and sorted by a WMI facility operator to ensure no unacceptable waste is present and for proper segregation of waste. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is then pushed by a small-wheeled loader onto sheet-steel feed ramps and flows into semi-trailers. The loaded MSW trailers are covered and hauled to WM – Big Dipper/Dakota Landfill (Permit 0257). Recycling materials are transferred to Waste Management Recycle America Material Recovery in Minnesota. Inert waste is not accepted; however, the facility is assisting Prairie View Landfill (Permit 0128), a nearby inert waste facility by weighing inert waste truck loads on the facility’s scale before directing them to Prairie View Landfill.

Closure

WMI will notify the Department of the intent to close the Wahpeton Transfer Station in writing prior to initiation of closure of the facility. Upon final closure of the transfer station, all MSW and recyclables will be taken to the appropriate permitted facilities for disposal. The transfer station will be swept and cleaned in the event of facility closure.

Compliance History

There have been no items of non-compliance noted since the previous permit was issued in 2012. No formal notices of violations have been issued to the facility.

Solid Waste Management Rules (NDAC Article 33.1-20)

NDAC Section 33.1-20-02.1-05. Record of notice.

A record of notice is not required for transfer stations.

NDAC Section 33.1-20-02.1-06. Property rights.

Land tract ownership for Northern Waste Systems, Inc. was included as a supporting document. The 1994 merger between Northern Waste Systems, Inc. and WMI was also provided to verify ownership of the property.

NDAC Section 33.1-20-03.1-01. Preapplication procedures.

A preapplication is not required for a transfer station.

NDAC Section 33.1-20-03.1-02. Permit application procedures.

NDAC Subsections 33.1-20-03.1-02(1) – (3)

WMI submitted a completed and signed application form along with supporting documents which were received by the Department on May 27, 2022. An electronic copy was received on May 28, 2022. The application was signed by Jon Diemer, Senior District Manager, and Raymond Seegers, Engineer, who are authorized agents for WMI.
NDAC Subsection 33.1-20-03.1-02(4)

A public notice by the facility is not required for a permit renewal and no major modifications are being proposed.

NDAC Subsection 33.1-20-03.1-02(5)

Notification to the North Dakota Public Service Commission is not required as the facility is not proposing to dispose of coal processing wastes in a mining permit area.

NDAC Subsection 33.1-20-03.1-02(6)

Applications for a solid waste management unit or facility permit must include the following information where applicable:

a. A completed application form, subsection 1;

   WMI submitted a completed and signed application form along with supporting documents which were received by the Department on May 27, 2022. An electronic copy was received on May 28, 2022. The application was signed by Jon Diemer, Senior District Manager, and Raymond Seegers, Engineer, who are authorized agents for WMI.

b. A description of the anticipated physical and chemical characteristics, estimated amounts, and sources of solid waste to be accepted, including the demonstration required by North Dakota Century Code section 23.1-08-14;

   The Wahpeton Transfer Station accepts MSW waste and recycling materials for transfer from the City of Wahpeton and surrounding communities. The solid waste stream consists of household refuse, paper, containers, and other trash generated by homes, motels, hotels, recreation facilities, public or private facilities, or by commercial, wholesale, private, or retail business. This does not include special waste, industrial waste, or any restricted materials. A detailed list of restricted/prohibited waste is included in the Plan of Operation. The transfer station handles approximately 11,167 tons of MSW per year.

   Municipal curbside collection of recyclables and on-site recycling containers provided at the transfer facility comprise WMI’s single sort recycling process stream for the facility. The recyclables are transferred from the facility to Waste Management Recycle America Material Recovery in Minnesota. The transfer station handles approximately 1,231 tons of recycling materials per year.

c. The site characterization of section 33.1-20-13-01 and a demonstration that the site fulfills the location standards of section 33.1-20-04.1-01;

   The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is a transfer station and is not proposing any disposal activities.
d. Soil survey and segregation of suitable plant growth material;

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is a transfer station and is not proposing any disposal activities.

e. Demonstrations of capability to fulfill the general facility standards of section 33.1-20-04.1-02;

The requirements of this section are addressed in the Plan of Operation. Additional information can be found in the Design and Operation sections of this memo.

f. Facility engineering specifications adequate to demonstrate the capability to fulfill performance, design, and construction criteria provided by this article and enumerated in this subdivision;

1) Transfer stations and drop box facilities, section 33.1-20-04.1-06.

The facility consists of two fenced metal-structured buildings. One building contains the scale house office and maintenance garage. The other building is the transfer station. The facility is an enclosed waste handling facility with roll-up driveway doors and a concrete tipping floor. All unloading and transfer activities are conducted within the transfer station building. There is a drive-on scale located in front of the scale house office building upon entering the property gate. The facility is surrounded by a chain-link fence and has gates which restrict vehicle access, encompassing the approximately 94,331 square foot facility.


The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing to manage any waste piles.

3) Resource recovery, section 33.1-20-04.1-08.

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing any resource recovery activities.

4) Land treatment, section 33.1-20-04.1-09 and chapter 33.1-20-09.

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a land treatment facility.

5) Non-CCR surface impoundments, section 33.1-20-04.1-09 and chapter 33.1-20-08.1.

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing any surface impoundments.
6) Any disposal, section 33.1-20-04.1-09.
   The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing any disposal activities.

7) Inert waste landfill, chapter 33.1-20-05.1.
   The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing an inert waste landfill.

8) Municipal waste landfill, chapter 33.1-20-06.1.
   The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a municipal waste landfill.

9) Industrial waste landfill, chapters 33.1-20-07.1 or 33.1-20-10.
   The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing an industrial waste landfill.

10) TENORM waste landfill, chapters 33.1-20-07.1 or 33.1-20-10 and 33.1-20-11
    The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a TENORM waste landfill.

11) Special waste landfill, chapter 33.1-20-07.1;
    The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a special waste landfill.

12) CCR unit, chapter 33.1-20-08;
    The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a CCR unit.

13) Municipal solid waste ash landfills, chapter 33.1-20-10;
    The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a municipal solid waste ash landfill.

14) Regulated infectious waste unit, chapter 33.1-20-12;
    The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing a regulated infectious waste unit.

g. The plan of operation of section 33.1-20-04.1-03;
   A Plan of Operation was included with the permit application which was submitted to the Department on May 27, 2022. The requirements of this section were addressed within the Plan of Operation included with the permit
application. The Design and Operation sections in this memo include additional information.

Note: The Plan of Operation needs updating and revision. The Department will work with the facility, separate from the permit, to approve a revised version of the Plan of Operation. The Plan of Operation prepared by HPC, Inc. and was submitted for permit renewal requirements in 2001. Multiple instances of additional correspondence (email and phone calls) were required to clarify conflicting information and update current operational procedures regarding the outdated Plan of Operation provided with the application.

The current Plan of Operation requires updates to facility square footage, accepted waste streams (inert and yard waste explanations), Department name references, regulatory references, leachate management practice, Transfer Station management name(s), and updates on facilities' names and/or locations where waste and recyclables are transferred. All of this has been addressed through separate correspondence over the years, however, it has not been captured in one complete document.

h. Demonstration of the treatment technology of section 33.1-20-01.1-12;

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is not proposing to treat waste.

i. The place where the operating record is or will be kept, section 33.1-20-04.1-04;

The operating record is kept at the facility.

j. Demonstration of capability to fulfill the groundwater monitoring, sections 33.1-20-08-06 or 33.1-20-13-02;

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is a transfer station and groundwater monitoring is not required.

k. Construction quality assurance and quality control;

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is a transfer station and landfill cells will not be constructed.

l. Demonstrations of capability to fulfill the closure standards, section 33.1-20.1-04.1-05 and otherwise provided by this article;

WMI will notify the Department of the intent to close the Wahpeton Transfer Station in writing prior to initiation of closure of the facility. Upon final closure of the transfer station all MSW and recyclable goods will be taken to the appropriate permitted facilities. The transfer station will be swept and cleaned in the event of facility closure.
m. Demonstrations of capability to fulfill the postclosure standards, section 33.1-20-04.1-09 and otherwise provided by this article; and

The requirements of this section are not applicable as the facility is a transfer station and postclosure care is not required.

n. A disclosure statement as required by North Dakota Century Code section 23.1-08-17.

A disclosure statement was not included with the permit application. The Department sent a request, via e-mail, to the applicant on May 27, 2022.

A disclosure statement that meets the requirements of this section was submitted to the Department on June 3, 2022.

Conclusion

Based on the submitted application and items discussed above, Waste Management of North Dakota, Inc. has shown that the renewal meets the requirements of the North Dakota Solid Waste Management Rules. It is proposed that the Department grant the Waste Management of North Dakota, Inc. a permit with the conditions listed in Permit 0362. The proposed permit length is for a period of 10 years because the facility is a transfer station which has been in operation for over 40 years, has not had major compliance issues, and has not historically proposed major changes to their operation.

CRH:DAT:MPM
Attachment