



Minimization and Disposal of Transfer Station Washdown Wastewater Technical Guidance Document SW-1998-G2

Solid waste transfer stations require periodic cleaning. Generation of transfer station washdown wastewater during the cleaning process should *always* be minimized. Minimizing the amount of wastewater generated will increase the opportunities available for disposing of the wastewater. Wastewater minimization must be a part of the transfer station operation plan.

Minimization

Operational procedures which will minimize washdown wastewater include:

- Dry cleaning the station prior to a water washdown. Dry cleaning means shoveling and/or sweeping the tipping floor to remove as much material as possible.
- Absorbing any visible liquids remaining after sweeping and shoveling with a material such as floor dry. The absorbent and liquid should then be swept and shoveled into the transfer trailer with the rest of the solid waste.
- Washing down the station only if needed. Washdown wastewater should be minimized by using high pressure spray nozzles, or other high pressure cleaning equipment. Owners/operators may already have access to this type of equipment through other areas of their organizations.

If chemical cleaning agents are used in conjunction with the washwater, they should be non-toxic, non-hazardous, environmentally friendly, and used in accordance with label instructions. Most suppliers of surfactants to car washes offer these types of cleaners.

Disposal

Several methods of disposal are available for the wastewater that is collected from washdown. The preferred method of disposal is:

Disposal at an NPDES-permitted wastewater treatment facility. The criteria for disposal (fees, analytical requirements, etc.) must be mutually

agreeable between the transfer station owner/operator and the wastewater treatment facility owner/operator.

If there is a choice of more than one wastewater treatment facility for the disposal of washdown wastewater, the most preferable type is an activated sludge treatment facility, followed by a discharge lagoon facility, with a non-discharging lagoon facility being the least preferable. Trickling filter facilities are not recommended as disposal facilities.

If disposal at an NPDES-permitted wastewater treatment facility is not feasible, one of the following methods may be used, but **only with written approval** from KDHE's Bureau of Waste Management.

- Irrigation at a closed landfill site. Standard irrigation practices should be followed. These include even distribution of the wastewater, no application to frozen ground, no ponding, and no wastewater run-off from the site. This option should be considered an interim measure until Bureau of Waste Management Staff can generate adequate analytical data on the washdown wastewater from operating transfer stations.
- Irrigation of solid waste. This option would involve evenly distributing washdown wastewater on the solid waste in the transfer trailer. The theory is that solid waste would "soak up" the water. This option is risky in that over-application of the water could lead to equipment damage, or a trailer leaking as it was transported to the landfill. Additionally, this option would defeat the purpose of not allowing disposal of liquids in landfills. If this option is used, transfer station operators would have to be extremely careful not to over-irrigate.

For additional information regarding proper management of solid waste, you may contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (785)296-1600 or the address at the top of this document.