

3I SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

1. ISSUE

When solid and hazardous wastes are improperly handled or improperly disposed, they can become a threat to surface water and groundwater. Stockpiles, dumps, salvage yards, spills, and illegal dumping can affect surface water and can potentially infiltrate into aquifers and contaminate the aquifer. Some hazardous waste contamination can potentially contaminate aquifers to the point where the water is no longer a feasible drinking source.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Solid Waste

Carver County has never had a large solid waste dump or sanitary landfill. Historically, solid waste was disposed of in municipal dumps in or near each city, or by the individual property owner. Regulations required the closing of the city dumps in the 1970's. For a number of reasons a sanitary landfill was never established in Carver County; all waste collected is transported out of the county for disposal elsewhere. The practice of disposing of solid waste by individuals in the rural area on their land continues to a limited extent. However, this practice is decreasing because of the increased availability of waste collection services in the rural area combined with increased regulation and the realization of the environmental hazards.

The principal solid waste/groundwater concern in Carver County is the condition of the old city dumps and other old waste disposal areas. As part of the inventory done in 1979 the MPCA evaluated the sites, all of the sites have been closed - covered with soil - and are no longer being used. Table 3I.1 shows the location of these sites and their evaluation.

Table 3I.1. Inventory of Closed Dump Sites

Site Name	Twp Rng Sec 1/4	Status
Carver City Dump	115 23 17 NW	Closed, no apparent problems
Chaska Hwy. Dept. Dump	115 23 8 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
Chaska City Dump	115 23 9 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
Cologne City Dump	115 25 14 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
Hamburg City Dump	115 26 33 NW	Closed, no apparent problems
New Germany City Dump	117 26 32 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
New Germany City Dump	117 26 28	Closed, no apparent problems
Norwood City Dump	115 26 16 NW	Closed, no apparent problems
Victoria City Dump	116 24 12 SW	Closed, possible contamination
Waconia City Dumps	116 25 9 SW	Closed, no apparent problems
Watertown City Dump	116 25 23 NW	Closed, no apparent problems
Roy Teich Dump	116 25 14 SW	Closed, no apparent problems
Unnamed	116 25 24 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
Unnamed	117 25 4 NE	Closed, no apparent problems
Young America City Dump	115 26 12 NW	Closed, no apparent problems
Mayer/Dalchow Dump	117 25 31 SW	Closed, no apparent problems

The Victoria dump site is suspected of affecting water in its immediate area, but this has not been positively confirmed. The Mayer and New Germany sites are in areas with a relatively high potential for groundwater contamination because of permeable soils. The MDH conducted limited monitoring around the New Germany and Mayer sites. The monitoring has consisted of testing of existing domestic wells. The testing of these wells has found no detectable contamination. Only a complete geologic, hydrologic, and water quality analysis can determine if there are pollution problems. With the exception of the Victoria site, there is currently no evidence, given the current level of information, of problems at the other sites. At this point it appears that the risk of major contamination from existing dumps is limited.

Current laws, rules, and ordinances generally prohibit the land disposal of solid waste. Certain demolition debris can be disposed of under controlled circumstances. There are no plans at this point for location of major waste disposal facilities in the county. There may be waste handling, sorting or transfer stations, but these facilities will be developed and operated under a permitting and licensing process.

The County operates four drop-off Recycling sites in addition to the Environmental Center in Chaska. These are located in Norwood Young America, Cologne, New Germany, and Watertown. Each site is operated in partnership with the city in which it is located. The

sites are meant to provide additional recycling resources for city residents and primary recycling services for rural residents in the surrounding area. Services differ from site to site but generally include “traditional” recyclables, yard waste and specific other items such as scrap metal. The sites are manned or supervised by a combination of County staff, paid civic groups such as 4-H and Boy Scouts, and City staff.

The County is also pursuing a significant expansion of service in 2010 at the city of Watertown. The site may be expanded from an outdoor drop-off site to a major facility via an arrangement with a non-profit organization. The new facility would be named the Douglas Kugler Eco-Site in memory of a Watertown School District teacher who was instrumental in implementing and maintaining recycling services in Watertown. This proposal would have many benefits including expanding recycling and special waste services, employing disabled adults, and taking pressure off the Chaska Environmental Center. It could be funded with solid waste funds currently budgeted for the existing Watertown site.

In addition, The County plans to continue its innovative approach to collecting and composting organics began in 2007 with a demonstration project allowing for the co-collection of food waste and non recyclable paper with yard waste. The County was one of the first public entities in Minnesota to implement this type of program, which demonstrated that collection costs could be reduced by combining food waste, non-recyclable paper and yard waste in the same collection container. The County intends to continue its partnership with the University of Minnesota landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen to locate a new composting facility.

The County has been extensively involved in solid waste planning and programs since the early 1970's. Statutes, regional plans, various rules, and the needs and desires of the citizens have and will continue to be the driving force behind the solid waste management effort in Carver County. The County has adopted a Solid Waste Master Plan and the Solid Waste Ordinance which implements the plan. The process used to develop the Solid Waste Master Plan and Ordinance is the vehicle through which groundwater protection shall occur.

2.2. Hazardous Waste

The same principals apply to hazardous waste as to solid waste - improper management can lead to groundwater contamination. In the case of hazardous waste, the contamination process is more direct than that of solid waste. In the case of solid waste, the contaminant typically consists of the leachate from a dump. The leachate is the result of ongoing chemical processes which occur over time. Contamination from hazardous waste, on the other hand, can occur by leaching from improper storage or illegal disposal areas and can occur much more easily by accident or as a result of improper land use practices. For example, the potential for groundwater contamination from an overturned garbage truck is minimal, while the threat from an overturned truck of benzene is very real, immediate, and has a high level of danger.

Proper management of hazardous waste is more complex than the management of solid waste in that hazardous waste can take numerous forms, many of which are part of our daily lives. Hazardous waste is not only the chemicals from a factory or shop, but many of the chemicals commonly found in our homes or on our farms. Because of the diversity in types of waste and the nature of the generators, several very different programs have been instituted by various levels of government to properly manage hazardous waste.

The Federal and State governments have in place extensive programs regarding hazardous waste. Some programs define what is hazardous, the level and type of hazard, physical characteristics, and health risk limits. Other programs set out proper management practices, transportation regulations, disposal rules, and mandate the use of these practices.

The State Rules place responsibility for regulation on the County. The County is required to license all hazardous waste generators and as of 2009, approximately 300 generators are licensed. An unknown number of additional generators are unlicensed. The process results in a license being issued or the generator being declared exempt. The County also enforces the Hazardous Waste Ordinance which addresses inspections, enforcement, and licensing of Hazardous Waste generators. As part of its programs, the County also sponsors a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program at a permanent facility, a VSQG Hazardous Waste Collection Program, and several educational programs.

There are already substantial resources committed to hazardous waste programs. These programs are guided or mandated by State and Federal programs and plans. The Plan provides a valuable set of information including groundwater sensitivity. This information can establish a priority or urgency framework for the other activities. For example, licensing of generators in high sensitivity areas should be given a high priority. Spills or illegal dumping should be given an urgency rating based on the sensitivity of the area.

3. SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE GOAL

Goal SHW-1 Prevent contamination of surface water and groundwater through proper disposal or handling of solid and hazardous waste.

4. SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE POLICIES

Policy SHW-1 The contamination of surface water and groundwater by solid waste can best be prevented by properly managing the waste. Reuse, recycling, and careful purchasing are ways to limit solid waste generated; these activities are encouraged. The County will continue to operate and/or support programs in these areas. The County will continue to work toward the establishment of a composting or other waste processing facility, which will alleviate or limit the future need for landfills.

Policy SHW-2 The County will give a high priority to the licensing of hazardous waste generators in areas of surface water and groundwater sensitivity.

Policy SHW-3 Surface water and groundwater sensitivity will be a major factor in facility siting processes for both solid and hazardous waste facilities.

Policy SHW-4 Carver County shall continue to inventory all known sites which pose a potential threat to surface water and groundwater.

Policy SHW-5 Local units of government shall consider surface water and groundwater sensitivity in planning and siting processes

involving land uses that will potentially generate hazardous wastes, particularly industrial and similar uses.

5. SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE IMPLEMENTATION

Imp Strategy SHW-1 **Solid and Hazardous Waste Program.** The CCWMO relies on the Carver County Solid and Hazardous Waste Program to regulate and enforce solid and hazardous waste generators. The Carver County Land and Water Services Division is responsible for the implementation of the program, including the following activities:

1. Inventory and locate all potential contaminant sites. Using GIS and GPS, all known potential contaminant sites will be located by the County. Once known sites are inventoried and located, new sites will be added to the database.
2. Implement the County Solid Waste Ordinance. The Ordinance regulates the handling and disposal of solid waste in Carver County.
3. Continue the Hazardous Generator Licensing program. Licensing and inspection of hazardous waste generators will continue and is the most effective way at this time to monitor use of waste in the county. As new generators are identified, they will be licensed and inspected.
4. Continue the Recycling Program and Centers. Carver County Environmental Services administers the recycling program. Continuation of this program will be part of the implementation of this plan. Recycling centers will continue to operate in the county, along with the potential for enhanced collection opportunities.
5. Continue Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program and collection sites. Carver County Environmental Services will continue to operate the HHW facility and event collection centers in the county, along with the potential for enhanced collection opportunities.

Imp Strategy SHW-2 **Continue an education program.** A large piece of the existing programs is education of residents and commercial/industrial operators. Current education efforts in these areas will be incorporated into a coordinated water education program.