

Questions from Richardson Residents Regarding the Upcoming Lookout Drive Transfer Station Remodel and Proposed Expansion July 10, 2009

OPERATIONAL DATA AND TRASH FLOW

- 1. There are several questions regarding records of waste taken to the three transfer stations and the landfills by the Member Cities, breakdown of that waste stream by commercial and residential.**

The NTMWD has previously posted information on the Web site that reflects the last two years of data.

- 2. There are several questions regarding use of the Lookout Drive Transfer Station, located in Richardson, by cities other than Richardson.**

The five Member Cities of the NTMWD Regional Solid Waste System have executed contracts with the NTMWD for transfer and disposal of solid waste. In those contracts, each Member City agrees that each of the cities will be allowed to use each and every facility in the system. No City is restricted from using any of the facilities in the system. Through the shared use of the available facilities, the Member Cities gain the benefits of the regional solid waste system. The Member Cities, not the NTMWD, make the decision regarding which point of delivery shall be used for their City's waste.

- 3. Has NTMWD installed automated data reporting systems as recommended in the 2001 report?**

Yes.

- 4. We would like to have access to this raw data on a monthly/quarterly basis (or any other internal reports).**

As indicated above, the NTMWD has posted information showing tonnages for the past two years. The NTMWD provides this information to the Member Cities on a monthly basis. Once we have provided that information to the Member Cities, and they have had a chance to review it and get any questions answered they may have, then NTMWD will proceed to post it on the Web site.

- 5. Can the average be below the permit while an occasional spike goes above (and stay in compliance)?**

Yes. The current permit language is only for an annual average and does not restrict the daily maximum.

- 6. How is the "500 tons/day" permit written? (Averaged over year?)**

This was discussed in detail at the June 3, 2009, public information meeting and June 29, 2009, City Council Work Session. 500 tons per day is averaged over the calendar year of 365 days. In other words, the NTMWD is allowed by the current permit to accept 182,500 tons, (i.e., 365 days x 500 tons/day = 182,500 tons) on an annual basis.

- 7. Are there "heavy" weeks, like the week after Christmas or other holidays?**

NTMWD response - *There are heavy weeks and heavy days. The highest loading seen in the Solid Waste System is typically after Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.*

City of Richardson response - *Yes, during the week of Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, the first collection day for the Monday - Thursday and Tuesday - Friday routes are heavier than usual. Commercial collection is initially heavy during these weeks as well, and then tapers off to normal tonnages by week's end.*

- 8. How much (weight) trash in normal city truck?**

City of Richardson response - *Residential rear-loader averages 13,000 lbs. (6.5 tons) per load. Commercial trucks vary - frontload trucks average 15,000 lbs. (7.5 tons) per load; roll-off trucks with open-top containers range from 200-300 lbs. to 3,000-4,000 lbs., and those with compactors from 1,000 lbs. to 33,000 lbs., depending on makeup of the trash within the containers.*

9. What is MPG of city truck?

City of Richardson response - Average is between 5-9 MPG

10. How has gas prices changed the trash flow?

City of Richardson response - Richardson has always used the transfer station(s) closest to each respective collection route, regardless of gas prices. It has done so because its routes are already designed to travel the absolute shortest distance to and from the Lookout Drive and/or Plano Parkway Transfer Stations.

FOURTH TRANSFER STATION STUDY

1. There are several questions regarding the fourth transfer station site.

Purchase of property for the fourth transfer station location is being actively pursued at this time. This property purchase is currently funded through a bond sale that occurred in 2009. The recommended site will meet criteria for a transfer station including: size, topography, location, shape, and other criteria. Once the property is purchased, the NTMWD will move ahead with the permitting of the site. The station will be designed and constructed to accommodate the needs of the Member Cities. Based on the current loading of the Custer Road Transfer Station and the overall Transfer System, sufficient capacity exists to allow for significant growth in the waste load prior to the need for construction of the fourth transfer station.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY

1. Has Lookout ever operated past its permitted capacity?

No.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS & IMPACT & MAINTENANCE

1. Are the hours of operation for public use 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Saturday?

Yes.

2. Page 8: Will there be a place for recycling and yard waste drop-off separately?

City of Richardson response - A domestic recyclables/brush/yard waste collection center will be made available inside the City's property, contiguous to the Lookout Drive Transfer Station.

3. Is there a plan for "secondary containment and other recyclables"?

"Other potential recyclables include tires, appliances (with CFC removal facilities), cardboard, aluminum and plastics." (Report 2005, Page 5)

City of Richardson response - Yes, please see answer to preceding question.

4. Is there a plan for brush management?

The NTMWD currently operates a Regional Composting Program. Yard waste can be taken to the NTMWD 121 Regional Disposal Facility (121 RDF), or the Custer Road Transfer Station where it is ground and then transported to the 121 RDF where it is composted.

5. What will the security fence look like?

As indicated in the June 29, 2009, City Council Work Session, NTMWD is moving forward with the purchase and installation of a chain link fence (6 foot high with 3 strands of barbed wire) to provide security for the Lookout Drive Transfer Station. The additional fencing will result in the entire site being secured.

**6. Will all forms of trash trucks be prohibited from Lookout Park Parking Lot?
(Occasional swapping of "roll offs" has happened in the recent past)**

City of Richardson response - *The practice of dropping double pull compactors to readjust them on the truck is confined to the unpaved area along Lookout Drive east of the driveway to the park. Allied Waste has been advised not to use the Lookout Park parking lot for this practice. City of Richardson solid waste employees have been instructed not to drive through the park parking lot to access Owens Blvd. They may stop by the park restrooms to use those facilities, but that is the only time a City of Richardson solid waste truck should be in the park parking lot.*

7. How many city trucks and semis per day at Lookout?

City of Richardson response - *City of Richardson solid waste trucks:*

Residential average - 22 loads per day (annual avg.- not peak or low)

Commercial average - 32 loads per day (annual avg.- not peak or low)

Brush trucks average- 23 loads per day (annual avg. - not peak or low)*

**These trucks are going to the yard area for brush operations.*

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

1. What was the main motivation for the "land swap"?

The Lookout Drive Transfer Station, owned and operated by the NTMWD, lies on a 4.7463 acre tract, which is a portion of a 20.225 acre tract originally owned by the City of Richardson. The City of Richardson operates facilities on the remaining acreage on this site. The NTMWD and the City of Richardson recognized the potential to meet each entity's needs through joint planning of this site. Based on the advantages to relocate the transfer station (due to topography, natural screening, simplified construction, and proximity to Lookout Drive), it was a joint decision of the NTMWD and city staffs to relocate the transfer station, and swap the same amount of property with the City for their use.

2. How long will the transfer station take to build?

It will take 12-18 months for the construction of the new transfer station.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

1. Are there any changes planned in the interim period to improve windblown trash and odor?

a. We are very interested to hear the City of Richardson/NTMWD plan for this, and are encouraged that they received that message from 6/3 meeting.

During the June 29, 2009, City Council Work Session, details were provided regarding windblown trash and odor. NTMWD will install a 6-foot high chain link security fence, with three strand barb wire, to fully enclose the site. Recently, NTMWD has installed a 10-foot high chain link fence on the west side of the building at the entrance to the push pit level (middle operating level of the transfer station). Operating protocol has been modified for loaded transfer trailers, in that they pull out from the transfer station a short distance before closing the rear door to the trailer. Portable wind fences are being purchased to be stationed around the site, as needed, based on loading and wind direction to assist in collection of windblown debris. City collection vehicles are unloaded inside the transfer building as much as possible. Laborers are assigned to pick up litter along Lookout Drive and Plano Road. Labor force is increased as required on windy days. Odor neutralizer has been purchased and will be applied to surfaces that come in contact with waste with a portable sprayer unit. NTMWD continues to research more permanent methods of odor control. Permit requires weekly washdown of the surfaces that come in contact with waste, current practice is twice weekly minimum.

EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT & COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. Who audits the solid waste operation of the NTMWD?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) issues permits for Solid Waste facilities and performs oversight of the operation and the permit requirements.

2. Who should a resident complain to for future problems?

NTMWD has a procedure for processing complaints regarding any NTMWD facility. The NTMWD administrative office phone number (972-442-5405) is answered 24/7/365 days a year. Complaints can be made at this phone number. The complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate NTMWD staff member for review and follow-up. Should a complainant desire a return phone call, it is requested that he/she indicate so during the initial phone contact.

The City of Richardson will also take complaints and mitigate each or notify the NTMWD and advise NTMWD to follow-up with city staff on resolution. City of Richardson number is 972-744-4111.

RELATIONSHIP & MONEY

1. Does Richardson receive any benefit from having one of the transfer stations?

City of Richardson response - *Yes, Richardson residents benefit. It benefits from an operational aspect in that trucks spend only the required and minimum amount of time "off the route." This reduces the need for additional resources to collect trash like rear-loaders, drivers, and more employees as collection crews. Longer driving times to and from an alternate station would further add expenses to the operation (i.e., fuel, pay, rolling stock wear and tear, etc.).*

2. What is the contract between the City and the District?

City of Richardson response - *The contract represents a partnership between the City of Richardson and four other surrounding cities. This contract was entered into initially by the Cities of Plano and Richardson. Subsequently, the Cities of Allen, Frisco, and McKinney joined to further afford all five significant economies of scale benefits. Significant savings to all five cities' residents are afforded from sharing in the cost of operating a landfill and transfer stations. Each city does not have to incur all associated cost in permitting, operating, maintaining, managing a landfill or transfer station by itself. Ongoing reports on processes and compliance with EPA through TCEQ are also administered by the District; and in turn, keeping cities from having to do this time-consuming and demanding task.*