



DEP FACT SHEET:

PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS FOR

Bethlehem Landfill

Major Permit Modification – Northern Realignment

Application No. 100020-A203

Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Current Permit Information

-Bethlehem Landfill is an existing 201-acre landfill located at 2335 Applebutter Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015. The landfill is located in Lower Saucon Township. A map showing the footprint of the site is attached.

-Permitted disposal area of approximately 110 acres.

-Permitted volume of waste: 13.6 Million Cubic Yards

-Its permitted operating hours are from 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Saturday.

-Bethlehem Landfill Company (BLC) currently holds a Waste Management Permit with the Department of Environmental Protection that expires April 17, 2023. The permit allows BLC to accept a daily maximum of 1,800 tons.

Proposed Expansion Information

-Requested daily maximum remains the same.

-Requested disposal area encompasses approximately 40.6 acres.

-Requested total volume of waste would increase by approximately 2.3 Million Cubic Yards.

-The project involves overtopping existing waste in portions of the old landfill and overtopping of existing waste in the western portions of the Southeastern Realignment and Phase III portions of the landfill. The project also involves placement of waste in landfill support areas which have not previously had waste placed.

-If approved, the expansion does not change the term of the permit and BLC would still need to apply for permit renewal prior to the April 17, 2023 expiration date.

-BLC would also need to obtain an Air Quality Plan Approval for the expansion.

PERMITTING PROCESS:

Timeline:

-BLC filed a permit application with DEP on December 14, 2020 to expand its existing landfill. BLC has requested an overlay on existing disposal areas and placement of waste in landfill support areas which have never had waste placed. This will increase the facility's disposal capacity by approximately 2.3 million cubic yards.

-On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, a Local Municipality Involvement Process Meeting was held with DEP and officials from Lower Saucon Township to discuss how BLC's expansion application would affect the Township and what oversight Township officials would have in the expansion request.

-On Saturday, March 27, 2021, a notice was placed in the PA Bulletin by DEP indicating the 75-day public comment period for the expansion application had begun.

-DEP is currently in the process of reviewing BLC's expansion application.

FIRST PHASE:

Environmental Assessment Process (EAP)

The Environmental Assessment Process reviews the environmental impacts of the proposed landfill expansion. The Department's review of the EAP lasts 225 business days and includes a 75-day public comment period.

Timeline:

--An initial EAP begins with a review of BLC's expansion application by DEP Waste Management staff. DEP also begins accepting public comments on the expansion application.

--DEP then sends a technical review letter to the permit applicant (BLC) and BLC is given a timeframe in which to provide a response.

--Once the applicant's response is received, a second EAP review is conducted within 75 business days.

-- Additional public comments will be accepted during the DEP's second review.

--Upon completion of DEP's review, if necessary, DEP will send another technical review letter to the applicant with a timeframe in which to provide a response.

--The last step in the Environmental Assessment Process is a final review by DEP and a final decision on whether to accept the Environmental Assessment from BLC.

--The first public comment period regarding the EAP will end on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 4pm.

Total: 225 days

SECOND PHASE:

Technical Design and Operational Review:

The Technical Design and Operational Review (TDOR) involves DEP Waste Management Staff reviewing the technical aspects of BLC's expansion application such as: liner system, gas management system, leachate system designs, slope stability, site geology, etc. The Department's review time is expected to last 180 business days.

Timeline:

--The first technical design review last 90 business days and again public comments are taken by DEP for 60 days.

-- DEP then sends a technical review letter to BLC and BLC is given a timeframe in which to provide a response.

--Once BLC's response is received, a second technical design review is held and a decision is made by DEP staff within 60 business days whether the response to the technical review letter is sufficient to approve the application. If it is not, then a Pre-denial letter would be issued.

--If a pre-denial letter is issued, the applicant (BLC) is given another opportunity to respond.

-- A final technical review and decision is done within 30 days of BLC's response.

Total (for TDOR): 180 days

THE ENTIRE REVIEW PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO LAST 405 DAYS

-Written comments about the permit expansion application can be sent to: Roger Bellas,
Program Manager-Waste Management Program, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.