

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1836 Session of
2003

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WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, JULY 9, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JULY 9, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 28, 1988 (P.L.556, No.101), entitled
2 "An act providing for planning for the processing and
3 disposal of municipal waste; requiring counties to submit
4 plans for municipal waste management systems within their
5 boundaries; authorizing grants to counties and municipalities
6 for planning, resource recovery and recycling; imposing and
7 collecting fees; establishing certain rights for host
8 municipalities; requiring municipalities to implement
9 recycling programs; requiring Commonwealth agencies to
10 procure recycled materials; imposing duties; granting powers
11 to counties and municipalities; authorizing the Environmental
12 Quality Board to adopt regulations; authorizing the
13 Department of Environmental Resources to implement this act;
14 providing remedies; prescribing penalties; establishing a
15 fund; and making repeals," defining "affected municipality";
16 further providing for powers and duties of the Department of
17 Health and for host municipality benefit fee; authorizing an
18 affected municipality benefit fee; further providing for
19 unlawful conduct; and making editorial changes.

20 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. The title of the act of July 28, 1988 (P.L.556,
23 No.101), known as the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and
24 Waste Reduction Act, is amended to read:

25 AN ACT

1 Providing for planning for the processing and disposal of
2 municipal waste; requiring counties to submit plans for
3 municipal waste management systems within their boundaries;
4 authorizing grants to counties and municipalities for
5 planning, resource recovery and recycling; imposing and
6 collecting fees; establishing certain rights for host
7 municipalities; requiring municipalities to implement
8 recycling programs; requiring Commonwealth agencies to
9 procure recycled materials; imposing duties; granting powers
10 to counties and municipalities; authorizing the Environmental
11 Quality Board to adopt regulations; authorizing the
12 Department of Environmental [Resources] Protection to
13 implement this act; providing remedies; prescribing
14 penalties; establishing a fund; and making repeals.

15 Section 2. The definitions of "department" and "secretary"
16 in section 103 of the act are amended and the section is amended
17 by adding a definition to read:

18 Section 103. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
20 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 * * *

23 "Affected municipality." A municipality within one mile of
24 the proposed facility, that is on an approach route to a
25 facility regulated by this act or that is otherwise adversely
26 impacted by a facility.

27 * * *

28 "Department." The Department of Environmental [Resources]
29 Protection of the Commonwealth and its authorized
30 representatives.

1 * * *

2 "Secretary." The Secretary of Environmental [Resources]
3 Protection of the Commonwealth.

4 * * *

5 Section 3. Section 510 of the act is amended by adding
6 subsections to read:

7 Section 510. Permit requirements.

8 * * *

9 (c) Community health risks study.--The department shall not
10 issue any approval or permit under this act or the Solid Waste
11 Management Act relating to the siting, operation or expansion of
12 a municipal waste landfill until a community health risks study
13 has been performed and submitted to the department. A community
14 health risks study shall be conducted at all existing facilities
15 by the department in conjunction with the Department of Health
16 and paid for by the applicant or operator within one year of the
17 effective date of this subsection. These studies shall be
18 considered by the department when reviewing new permit
19 applications, applications for permit renewals and permits for
20 the expansion of existing facilities. The study shall examine,
21 measure and report on the health risks to the residents of the
22 host municipalities and affected municipalities.

23 (d) Term of permits.--Any permit issued pursuant to this act
24 shall be issued for a fixed term consistent with the approved
25 operation and design plans of the municipal waste landfill, and
26 shall not exceed ten years. No municipal waste may be disposed
27 of or processed at a municipal waste landfill after the
28 expiration of its permit term. Expiration of the permit term
29 does not limit the operator's responsibility for complying with
30 requirements under this act, the other environmental protection

1 acts, regulations thereunder or the terms or conditions of the
2 department's permits. The department shall from time to time,
3 but at intervals not to exceed two years, review a permit issued
4 under this act. In its review, the department shall evaluate the
5 permit to determine whether it reflects currently applicable
6 operating requirements as well as current technology and
7 management practices. The department may require modification,
8 suspension or revocation of the permit when necessary to carry
9 out the purposes of this act or the environmental protection
10 laws of this Commonwealth.

11 Section 4. Section 511(a) of the act is amended to read:

12 Section 511. Site limitation.

13 (a) General rule.--The department shall not issue a permit
14 for, nor allow the operation of, a new municipal waste landfill,
15 a new commercial residual waste treatment facility or a new
16 resource recovery facility within 300 yards of any occupied
17 dwelling or a building which is owned by a school district or a
18 parochial school and used for instructional purposes, parks or
19 playgrounds existing prior to the date the department has
20 received an administratively complete application for a permit
21 for such facilities. This subsection shall not affect any
22 modification, extension, addition or renewal of existing
23 permitted facilities.

24 * * *

25 Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

26 Section 514. Public participation in expansion of existing
27 facilities.

28 (a) General rule.--Upon receiving an application to operate,
29 an application to modify a permit or an application to expand an
30 existing municipal waste landfill, the department, in

1 conjunction with the county, the host municipality and any
2 affected municipality, shall conduct not fewer than three public
3 hearings for the purpose of receiving information on the permit
4 modification. At least 30 days prior to conducting such public
5 hearings, the department shall publish notice of the hearing in
6 a newspaper of general circulation in the host municipality and
7 affected municipalities.

8 (b) Places of public hearings.--Public hearings shall be
9 conducted in the following areas:

10 (1) One in the host municipality.

11 (2) One in at least one affected municipality.

12 (3) One in one other appropriate location in the county.

13 (c) Purpose of public hearings.--The public hearings shall
14 solicit information from members of the public and local
15 officials regarding:

16 (1) Odor control.

17 (2) Community health risks.

18 (3) Traffic patterns and traffic volume as a result of
19 increased waste hauling in the host municipality and affected
20 municipalities.

21 (4) Emergency planning and response mechanisms for the
22 host municipalities and affected municipalities.

23 (5) Infrastructure support for the host municipalities
24 and affected municipalities.

25 (d) Summary of hearings.--After a hearing, the department
26 shall prepare a summary of the written and oral comments
27 submitted at the hearings, the department's responses to the
28 comments and the reasons therefor. The department shall provide
29 copies of this summary to the governing bodies of the host
30 municipalities, affected municipalities, any persons who

1 submitted comments and to other persons who request a copy.

2 (e) Construction with regulation or policy.--The public
3 hearings authorized by this section shall supplement but shall
4 not supersede the hearings and comment periods authorized by any
5 department regulation or policy.

6 Section 6. Section 1111(b) and (d) of the act are amended to
7 read:

8 Section 1111. Protection of capacity.

9 * * *

10 (b) Determination.--The permit condition shall be determined
11 in the following manner:

12 (1) The applicant shall notify the host county [and],
13 host municipality and any affected municipality upon filing
14 an application for permit pursuant to subsection (a). Within
15 60 days after receiving written notice from the applicant
16 that an application has been filed with the department, the
17 host county [and], host municipality and affected
18 municipality shall provide written notice to the applicant
19 and the department if it intends to negotiate with the
20 applicant. If the host county [and], host municipality and
21 affected municipality do not provide such notice and, if the
22 permit is issued, the permit condition shall state that no
23 waste capacity is reserved for the host county [and], host
24 municipality and affected municipality. The negotiation
25 period shall commence upon the date of receipt of the written
26 notice to the applicant from the host county and host
27 municipality and shall continue for 30 days. The issues to be
28 considered in negotiations shall include, but not be limited
29 to, the weight or volume of capacity reserved to a host
30 county [and], host municipality and affected municipality and

1 an increase in the average volume of waste up to the amount
2 of capacity set aside for municipal waste generated within
3 the host county [and], host municipality and affected
4 municipality.

5 (2) If the host county [and], host municipality,
6 affected municipality and the applicant agree to a weight or
7 volume of waste capacity to be reserved for the host county
8 [and], host municipality and affected municipality, they
9 shall notify the department in writing.

10 (3) If the host county [and], host municipality,
11 affected municipality and the applicant have failed to reach
12 an agreement within the 30-day negotiation period, then
13 either party to the dispute, after written notice to the
14 other party containing specifications of the issue or issues
15 in dispute, may request the appointment of a board of
16 arbitration pursuant to paragraph (7). Such notice shall be
17 made in writing to the other party within five days of the
18 end of the negotiation period. In making the decision as to
19 the terms of the agreement, the board shall consider among
20 other things the availability of disposal alternatives to the
21 host county [and], host municipality and affected
22 municipality. Should the host county [and], host municipality
23 and affected municipality fail to request arbitration within
24 five days, then the permit condition shall state that no
25 waste capacity is reserved for the host county [and], host
26 municipality and affected municipality.

27 (4) If the county and municipality elect to negotiate
28 with the applicant pursuant to this section, any agreement or
29 arbitration award shall provide, unless the host county
30 [and], host municipality, affected municipality and applicant

1 agree otherwise, that the county and [municipality]
2 municipalities shall utilize the capacity reserved in an
3 agreed-upon time frame.

4 (5) Should the applicant and the host county [and], host
5 municipality and affected municipality be unable to agree to
6 the terms of the agreement governing such utilization within
7 30 days of an agreement or an arbitration award as to the
8 weight or volume of waste capacity to be reserved in the
9 facility, either party can request the appointment of an
10 arbitration board pursuant to paragraph (7). In making the
11 decision as to the terms of the agreement for utilization,
12 the board shall consider, among other things, the weight or
13 volume of capacity reserved to a host county [and], host
14 municipality and affected municipality under any permit
15 issued pursuant to this section, an increase in the average
16 volume of waste in an amount up to the amount of capacity set
17 aside for municipal waste generated within the host county
18 [and], host municipality and affected municipality, the
19 financial viability of the facility and the terms, including
20 the rates per ton for disposal, of the contracts entered into
21 by the applicant for use of the facility by other than the
22 host county and host municipality.

23 (6) Except as provided in paragraph (1), the department
24 shall not issue any permit under this section unless it has
25 received written notice of an agreement between the applicant
26 and host county [and], host municipality and affected
27 municipality as to the weight or volume of capacity to be
28 reserved for the host county and host municipality as
29 provided in paragraph (2) or unless it has received written
30 notice that a Board of Arbitration appointed pursuant to

1 paragraph (7) has settled all issues in dispute between the
2 host county [and], host municipality, the affected
3 municipality and the applicant. The department shall include
4 a permit condition reserving such capacity provided for in
5 such agreements or arbitration awards.

6 (7) The board of arbitration shall be composed of three
7 persons, one appointed by the applicant, one appointed by the
8 host county and host municipality and a third member to be
9 agreed upon by the applicant and such host county and host
10 municipality. The members of the board representing the
11 applicant and the host county and host municipality shall be
12 named within five days from the date of the request for the
13 appointment of such board. If, after a period of ten days
14 from the date of the appointment of the two arbitrators
15 appointed by the host county and host municipality and the
16 applicant, the third arbitrator has not been selected by
17 them, then either arbitrator may request the American
18 Arbitration Association, or its successor in function, to
19 furnish a list of three members of said association who are
20 residents of Pennsylvania from which the third arbitrator
21 shall be selected. The arbitrator appointed by the applicant
22 shall eliminate one name from the list within five days after
23 publication of the list, following which the arbitrator
24 appointed by the host county and host municipality shall
25 eliminate one name from the list within five days thereafter.
26 The individual whose name remains on the list shall be the
27 third arbitrator and shall act as chairman of the board of
28 arbitration. The board of arbitration thus established shall
29 commence the arbitration proceedings within ten days after
30 the third arbitrator is selected and shall make its

determination within 30 days after the appointment of the third arbitrator.

* * *

(d) Consultation.--The host county shall consult with the host municipality and any affected municipality as part of the procedure set forth under this section.

* * *

Section 7. The heading of Chapter 13 of the act is amended to read:

CHAPTER 13

[HOST MUNICIPALITY] BENEFIT [FEE] FEES

Section 8. Sections 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305 and 1510(f) of the act are amended to read:

Section 1301. Host municipality and affected municipality benefit fee.

(a) Imposition.--There is imposed a host municipality benefit fee and an affected municipality benefit fee upon the operator of each municipal waste landfill or resource recovery facility that has a valid permit on the effective date of this act or receives a new permit or permit that results in additional capacity from the department under the Solid Waste Management Act after the effective date of this act. The fee shall be paid to the host municipality and affected municipality. If the host municipality owns or operates the landfill or facility, the fee shall not be imposed for waste generated within such municipality. If the landfill or facility is located within more than one host municipality, the fee shall be apportioned among them according to the percentage of the permitted area located in each municipality.

(b) Amount.--The host municipality fee is \$1 per ton of

1 weighed solid waste or \$1 per three cubic yards of volume-
2 measured solid waste for all solid waste received at a landfill
3 or facility. The affected municipality fee is 50¢ per ton of
4 weighted solid waste or 50¢ per three cubic yards of volume-
5 measured solid waste for all solid waste received at a landfill
6 or facility. Any amounts paid by an operator to a host
7 municipality or affected municipality pursuant to a preexisting
8 agreement shall serve as a credit against the fee amount imposed
9 by this section.

10 (c) Municipal options.--Nothing in this section or section
11 1302 shall prevent a host municipality or affected municipality
12 from receiving a higher fee or receiving the fee in a different
13 form or at different times than provided in this section and
14 section 1302, if the host municipality or affected municipality
15 and the operator of the municipal waste landfill or resource
16 recovery facility agree in writing.

17 (d) Supersede.--The fee imposed by this section shall
18 preempt and supersede any tax imposed on each municipal waste
19 landfill or resource recovery facility under the act of December
20 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling
21 Act, which is in excess of the amount imposed on or before
22 December 31, 1987.

23 (e) County options.--Nothing in this act shall prevent a
24 host county from negotiating a fee or fee in a different form,
25 if the host county and the operator of the municipal waste
26 landfill or resource recovery agree in writing. Any county which
27 has negotiated a fee as of the effective date of this act may
28 require that the fee be continued.

29 Section 1302. Form and timing of host municipality benefit fee
30 payment.

1 (a) Quarterly payment.--Each operator subject to section
2 1301 shall make the host municipality benefit fee payment and
3 the affected municipality benefit fee payment quarterly. The fee
4 shall be paid on or before the 20th day of April, July, October
5 and January for the three months ending the last day of March,
6 June, September and December.

7 (b) Quarterly reports.--Each host municipality benefit fee
8 payment and affected municipality benefit fee payment shall be
9 accompanied by a form prepared and furnished by the department
10 and completed by the operator. The form shall state the weight
11 or volume of solid waste received by the landfill or facility
12 during the payment period and provide any other information
13 deemed necessary by the department to carry out the purposes of
14 this act. The form shall be signed by the operator. A copy of
15 the form shall be sent to the department at the same time that
16 the fee and form are sent to the host municipality and affected
17 municipality.

18 (c) Timeliness of payment.--An operator shall be deemed to
19 have made a timely payment of the host municipality benefit fee
20 if all of the following are met:

21 (1) The enclosed payment is for the full amount owed
22 pursuant to this section, and no further host municipality or
23 affected municipality action is required for collection.

24 (2) The payment is accompanied by the required form and
25 such form is complete and accurate.

26 (3) The letter transmitting the payment that is received
27 by the host municipality and affected municipality is
28 postmarked by the United States Postal Service on or prior to
29 the final day on which the payment is to be received.

30 (d) Discount.--Any operator that makes a timely payment of

1 the host municipality benefit fee and the affected municipality
2 benefit fee as provided in this section shall be entitled to
3 credit and apply against the fee payable by him a discount of 1%
4 of the amount of the fee collected by him.

5 (e) Alternative proof.--For purposes of this section,
6 presentation of a receipt indicating that the payment was mailed
7 by registered or certified mail on or before the due date shall
8 be evidence of timely payment.

9 Section 1303. Collection and enforcement of fee.

10 (a) Interest.--If an operator fails to make a timely payment
11 of the host municipality benefit fee or the affected
12 municipality benefit fee, the operator shall pay interest on the
13 unpaid amount due at the rate established pursuant to section
14 806 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The
15 Fiscal Code, from the last day for timely payment to the date
16 paid.

17 (b) Additional penalty.--In addition to the interest
18 provided in subsection (a), if an operator fails to make timely
19 payment of the host municipality benefit fee or the affected
20 municipality benefit fee, there shall be added to the amount of
21 fee actually due 5% of the amount of such fee, if the failure to
22 file a timely payment is for not more than one month, with an
23 additional 5% for each additional month, or fraction thereof,
24 during which such failure continues, not exceeding 25% in the
25 aggregate.

26 (c) Assessment notices.--If the host municipality determines
27 that any operator of a municipal waste landfill or resource
28 recovery facility has not made a timely payment of the host
29 municipality benefit fee or the affected municipality benefit
30 fee, it will send a written notice for the amount of the

1 deficiency to such operator within 30 days from the date of
2 determining such deficiency. When the operator has not provided
3 a complete and accurate statement of the weight or volume of
4 solid waste received at the landfill or facility for the payment
5 period, the host municipality may estimate the weight or volume
6 in its deficiency notice.

7 (d) Constructive trust.--All host municipality benefit fees
8 or affected municipality benefit fees collected by an operator
9 and held by such operator prior to payment to the host
10 municipality or affected municipality shall constitute a trust
11 fund for the host municipality and the affected municipality,
12 and such trust shall be enforceable against such operator, its
13 representatives and any person receiving any part of such fund
14 without consideration or with knowledge that the operator is
15 committing a breach of the trust. However, any person receiving
16 payment of lawful obligation of the operator from such fund
17 shall be presumed to have received the same in good faith and
18 without any knowledge of the breach of trust.

19 (e) Manner of collection.--The amount due and owing under
20 section 1301 shall be collectible by the host municipality or
21 the affected municipality in the manner provided in section
22 1709.

23 (f) Remedies cumulative.--The remedies provided to host
24 municipalities or the affected municipalities in this section
25 are in addition to any other remedies provided at law or in
26 equity.

27 Section 1304. Records.

28 Each operator that is required to pay the host municipality
29 benefit fee or the affected municipality benefit fee shall keep
30 daily records of all deliveries of solid waste to the landfill

1 or facility, as required by the host municipality, including,
2 but not limited to, the name and address of the hauler, the
3 source of the waste, the kind of waste received and the weight
4 or volume of the waste. Such records shall be maintained in
5 Pennsylvania by the operator for no less than five years and
6 shall be made available to the host municipality for inspection
7 upon request.

8 Section 1305. Surcharge.

9 The provisions of any law to the contrary notwithstanding,
10 the operator of any municipal waste landfill or resource
11 recovery facility subject to section 1301 may collect the host
12 municipality benefit fee and the affected municipality benefit
13 fee as a surcharge on any fee schedule established pursuant to
14 law, ordinance, resolution or contract for solid waste disposal
15 or processing operations at the landfill or facility. In
16 addition, any person who collects or transports solid waste
17 subject to the host municipality benefit fee and the affected
18 municipality benefit fee to a municipal waste landfill or
19 resource recovery facility subject to section 1301 may impose a
20 surcharge on any fee schedule established pursuant to law,
21 ordinance, resolution or contract for the collection or
22 transportation of solid waste to the landfill or facility. The
23 surcharge shall be equal to the increase in processing or
24 disposal fees at the landfill or facility attributable to the
25 host municipality benefit fee. However, interest and penalties
26 on the fee under section 1303(a) and (b) may not be collected as
27 a surcharge.

28 Section 1510. Lead acid batteries.

29 * * *

30 (f) Enforcement.--The Department of Environmental

1 [Resources] Protection shall enforce this section.

2 Section 9. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

3 Section 1716. Multiple violations.

4 (a) General rule.--Any operator of a municipal waste
5 landfill found to have engaged in a significant violation of the
6 provisions of this act or the Solid Waste Management Act on
7 three separate occasions within a five-year period shall not be
8 granted any new permit, permit expansion or permit modification
9 by the department for a period of five years. Prior to the
10 adjudication of a third violation, the department shall notify
11 the operator of its intention to proceed pursuant to this
12 section before the Environmental Hearing Board.

13 (b) Notice.--No action may be commenced under this section
14 prior to 60 days after the department has given notice of the
15 third violation to the host municipality, to any affected
16 municipality and to any alleged violator of this act, of any
17 other environmental protection act or of the regulations or
18 orders of the department which have allegedly been violated.

19 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
20 "significant violation" means violations that may harm or
21 threaten to seriously harm the environment, harm or threaten to
22 seriously harm public health or safety, or interfere with or
23 jeopardize the integrity of the monitoring system used by an
24 agency.

25 Section 10. Section 1901 of the act is amended to read:

26 Section 1901. Report to General Assembly.

27 The Secretary of Environmental [Resources] Protection shall
28 prepare a report to the General Assembly concerning the
29 implementation of this act and the success of county and
30 municipal recycling programs. This report shall be transmitted

1 to the General Assembly no later than April 1, 1991, and shall
2 be revised, and modified if necessary, at least once every three
3 years thereafter.

4 Section 11. The amendment of sections 1111(b) and (d), 1301,
5 1302, 1303, 1304 and 1305 of the act shall only be applicable to
6 the siting of new municipal waste landfills which are issued
7 permits for operation after the effective date of this act.

8 Section 12. This act shall take effect in 60 days.