



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Office of the Commissioner

DATE: October 20, 2003

TO: Minnesota's Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Operators
Industrial Landfill Operators
Minnesota's Mixed Waste Combustor Operators

RE: Disposal of Deer Carcasses

This letter is an update from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding the proper disposal of deer carcasses. Last year, some disposal facilities in Minnesota amended their Industrial Solid Waste Management Plans (ISWMP) to accept wastes from deer culls and meat processing. For those facility operators who have not so amended their ISWMPs, we hope that this information assists you in deciding whether your facility should accept such wastes.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild deer herds, particularly in Wisconsin, has caused concern about the management of deer carcasses.

Fortunately, Minnesota wild deer herds remain free of CWD. Over 5,000 samples from wild deer were tested for CWD during last year's hunting season. All wild deer test results were negative for CWD. More extensive sampling is planned for this year's hunting season.

Wastes from this fall season's deer processing and herd culling will need disposal, and there is a general need for a practical, safe disposal method that is readily available and affordable for meat processors of all sizes, as well as for hunters who process their own kills. The MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have reviewed the available research. Based on that review, disposal of carcasses at a lined Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill or at a lined industrial landfill, and disposal of carcass ash at a Mixed Waste Combustor Ash Landfill, is safe and practicable. Also, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) plans to use an "air-curtain" incinerator for disposal of deer heads after tissue has been removed for CWD testing.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has completed an analysis that discusses best management practices in preventing the spread of CWD, including methods of feeding deer and disposal of carcass waste. This assessment was prepared by the WDNR with input from landfill engineers, wastewater and air management experts, veterinarians, and epidemiologists from several agencies. The WDNR also received input from disease-management experts in Europe and other states. MPCA and MDH staffs have reviewed this information and find that it is thorough and represent the latest information on this subject. The assessment is available at this WDNR web site:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/reference.htm>

MPCA will continue to work with other state agencies to gather information in this area and to develop best management plans for implementation if CWD should be discovered in

Minnesota's wild deer herd. These agencies include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (MBAH), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Minnesota Department of Health.

MPCA has drafted deer waste disposal language for amendment into ISWMPs and can assist you in accepting wastes from deer processing and culled herds according to best management practices. Please contact your MPCA regional solid waste compliance person if you want to obtain this language. A list of MPCA staffers to contact is included below in this letter.

For further information about the emerging CWD issue, here are other web sites that can be reviewed:

www.dnr.state.mn.us
www.bah.state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us
www.cvm.umn.edu/cahfs
www.aphis.usda.gov

For questions about this letter, or about your Industrial Solid Waste Management Plan, please call:

Brainerd	Curt Hoffman	(218) 828-6198
Detroit Lakes	Roger Rolf	(218) 846-0774
Duluth	Tim Musick	(218) 723-4708
Metro	Katie Koelfgen	(651) 297-8506
Rochester	Mark Hugeback	(507) 280-5585
Willmar	Don Nelson	(651) 296-8621

Sincerely,



Sheryl A. Corrigan
Commissioner

SAC:jrh

Enclosure: List of Lined Mixed Municipal Solid Waste and Ash Landfills, Lined Industrial Landfills, and Waste Combustors that can be approved to accept deer carcasses or deer ash

cc: County Solid Waste Officers
Commissioner Gene Merriam, MDNR
Commissioner Gene Hugoson, MDA
Commissioner Dianne Mandernach, MDH
Dr. Bill Hartmann, MBAH