



## **DHEC Update**

**Lee County Landfill**  
**U.S. Highway 15 - Bishopville, SC**

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**July 2009**

### **Introduction**

In an ongoing effort to keep the community near the Lee County Landfill better informed, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is providing this update to the citizens on our mailing list who have expressed an interest.

Along with this update, DHEC has created a web page ([www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill](http://www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill)) where DHEC information on the Lee County Landfill (including these updates) may be accessed more easily. Anyone interested in receiving these updates either by U.S. Mail or e-mail may sign-up on the web page to receive them.

### **Next Community Meeting**

DHEC believes that one of the most effective ways to hear comments and concerns from local citizens is through meetings held in your community. Getting involved is an important way for you to stay informed and to share your thoughts with us.

We enjoyed talking with and hearing from many of you at our meeting in March 2009. We are currently looking at dates to hold another meeting in the Bishopville community, possibly in late August or early September. At this meeting we will share with you our ongoing efforts and most recent findings on activities at the landfill. Information on our next meeting will be sent to everyone on our mailing list and posted on the web page ([www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill](http://www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill)).

### **Updates**

#### ***Land and Waste Management***

### Subsurface Landfill Fire

On June 18, 2009, a small subsurface (underground) landfill fire occurred at the Lee County Landfill near a gas extraction well on the top of the landfill toward the north slope, facing Interstate I-20. The subsurface landfill fire was a result of too much oxygen being pulled into the waste as more gas was extracted from a gas extraction well in that area.

Representatives of the landfill reacted promptly to extinguish the fire and notify DHEC. Upon notification, DHEC staff visited the site to ensure that the fire had been extinguished. DHEC staff also conducted a follow-up inspection at the site on June 19, 2009.

As a result of the fire, the affected well and four other gas extraction wells within a 300 ft. radius of the fire have been temporarily shutdown by Republic Services, Inc. (the company that operates the Lee County Landfill.) During the shutdown period, the gas extraction wells are being monitored daily for gas quality, temperature, and carbon monoxide concentrations. Once readings from these wells are similar to other gas extraction wells at the site, they will be brought back on line slowly.

### Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV)

DHEC conducted an unannounced inspection of the landfill at 5:00 a.m. on May 23, 2009. As a result of this inspection, DHEC issued a NOAV to Republic Services, Inc. for failure to adequately cover waste in two (2) of the working areas by close of business on May 22, 2009.

An enforcement conference was held on June 25, 2009, to discuss the findings from the inspection with Republic Services, Inc. DHEC is currently reviewing the information discussed during the enforcement conference to determine an appropriate course of action. Once the enforcement action has been finalized it will be available to the public.

### Landfill Gas Collection System

The landfill has completed installation of lateral (horizontal) gas lines in the current operating cell. Upon completion, the extended gas collection system was connected to the main system and became fully operational on June 30, 2009. All of the gas that is being collected in this

system is being routed to the Santee Cooper gas to energy facility. The extended gas collection system should help with the odors coming from the area where waste is currently being buried.

#### Santee Cooper Waste to Energy Generator

Santee Cooper completed installation of the new waste to energy generator in May 2009. This new unit is currently operating and is designed to use more of the landfill gas for energy production.

#### Sampling of Gin Branch

On May 20, 2009, DHEC collected six (6) sets of samples from Gin Branch and an associated contributing tributary, which forms the northern property boundary of the Lee County Landfill, at locations above, across from, and below the landfill.

Water and stream sediment samples were screened using DHEC's mobile laboratory. Screening results for metals, including low level mercury, and both volatile and semi-volatile organics analyses, show there are no water quality indicators that require additional study at this time.

#### *Air Quality*

As part of the Air Quality permits, Lee County Landfill and Santee Cooper performed an air dispersion modeling analysis. This analysis uses a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved computer model to determine if the maximum pollutant concentration beyond the property boundary meets federal and state standards. Emissions were estimated using EPA-developed emission factors for landfills.

The EPA sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principal pollutants, which are called "criteria" pollutants that include: particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and lead. These standards are set at levels protective of public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. These standards also protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. South Carolina's Air Toxics Regulation sets maximum allowable concentrations for toxic emissions at each permitted site.

Based on DHEC's review, the pollutant emissions from both the Lee County Landfill and associated Santee Cooper power generation meet both the federal and state standards.

## **Contact Information**

DHEC would like to continue to share information and discuss concerns about the Lee County Landfill with the surrounding community. We are interested in hearing from citizens about ways to communicate with you. This may be done through availability sessions, informal public meetings, or by updates such as this. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us.

For other environmental questions or comments in the Bishopville area, please contact Chris McCluskey or Greer McLaurin in our local DHEC office at (803) 778-6548.

Where possible, we would like to send future updates by e-mail. If you are not on our e-mail list to obtain these updates but would like to receive them by e-mail, please:

- Visit the web page ([www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill](http://www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill)) to sign-up; or
- Contact **Donna Moye, DHEC BLWM Public Participation Coordinator**; by phone at: (803) 896-4281; by e-mail at: [moyedd@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:moyedd@dhec.sc.gov); or in writing at: 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

If you prefer to receive these updates by U.S. Mail, please let us know that as well. Comments concerning the information being provided in our updates are welcome.

***Please share this update with others who may be interested.***

**Visit the web page ([www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill](http://www.scdhec.gov/leecountylandfill))  
to sign up to receive these updates by e-mail!**