Addison County Solid Waste Management District
Site Selection Criteria for a
Transfer Station or Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Materials Management Plan (“Plan”) requires that the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (“District”) Solid Waste Implementation Plan (“SWIP”) include siting criteria for Solid Waste Transfer Stations and Recycling Facilities, including Materials Recovery Facilities (“MRFs”), that require a certification under the VT Solid Waste Management Rules (“Rules”). A Facility includes all buildings and associated outdoor storage, parking, and traffic areas used for daily operations, excluding the access road from the Facility to the nearest approved road.

Siting criteria will be used as a general guide in the search for and review of suitable sites that meet the District’s long-term needs for transfer of waste or processing of recyclables. These Criteria will be used to review proposed locations available through the private sector, through volunteer or real estate opportunities or through a public site screening process.

These Criteria are not intended to be used as site design standards for the construction of facilities. In addition, these Criteria do not apply to waste collection containers and drop boxes such as dumpsters or roll-offs, which are commonly used for the temporary storage of waste by businesses, residences, public agencies, or other generators, unless the containers are part of a Facility that requires certification.

These Criteria do not apply to facilities that are exempt under §6-302 of the Rules.

The District believes that the siting and operation of a transfer or recycling facility requires public confidence in the operator’s capabilities and serious consideration of the cost effectiveness of hauling trash and recyclables. The following principles are therefore established to guide siting considerations:

1. A comprehensive, detailed operations plan for the Facility must be prepared, followed, and monitored;

2. Total system costs and potential cost savings associated with hauling options and Facility locations must be taken into account. As part of this, consideration should be given to the positive and negative effects of the Facility’s proximity to population centers.
II. DEFINITIONS

A. “Agency of Natural Resources”, “ANR” and “Agency” means the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

B. “Board of Supervisors” means the governing body of the District.

C. “Distance” means the distance measured horizontally from the outer perimeter of the Facility.

D. “District” means the Addison County Solid Waste Management District and its successors, and as appropriate in the context, the total area within the boundaries of all member municipalities within the District.

E. “District Manager” means the Manager of the District, or such Manager's designee.

F. “District Transfer Station” means the Facility owned by the District on Route 7 South in Middlebury that accepts and/or processes Solid Waste for ultimate Transfer to off-site locations for disposal, Processing, treatment, or incineration.

G. “Drop-Off Facility” means a Transfer Facility that primarily serves Residents who are Self-Haulers.

H. “Facility” means any site or structure used for treating, storing, Processing, Recycling, Transferring or disposal of Solid Waste. A Facility may consist of a single or several treatment, storage, Recycling, or disposal units, and may include a Mobile Solid Waste Collection Operation.

I. “Food Residuals” means source-separated and uncontaminated material that is derived from processing or discarding of food and that is recyclable, in a manner consistent with 10 V.S.A. Chapter 159 §6605k. Food Residuals may include pre-consumer and post-consumer food scraps. “Food Residuals” does not mean meat and meat-related products when the Food Residuals are composted by a resident on site.

J. “Generator” means a Person who produces Solid Waste by any means including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial activities.

K. “Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)” means a Recycling facility that accepts, aggregates, stores and/or processes recyclable waste materials. Some Recyclables may be stored at the MRF until a large enough shipment has accumulated.
L. “Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)” means combined household, commercial and industrial waste materials generated in a given area.

M. “Processing” means any activity that: (1) accepts Recyclables from off site and prepares the Recyclables for sale; or (2) accepts compostable materials from off site and composes the materials.

N. “Processor” means any Person who engages in Processing as defined in Section M above.

O. “Recyclables” means Solid Waste that may be reclaimed and/or processed and used in the production of raw materials or products.

P. “Recycled” and “Recycling” means the act of reclaiming and/or Processing using Solid Waste in the production of raw materials or products.

Q. “Resident” means an individual owning or occupying a dwelling unit in a particular city, town or village within the District.

R. “Reuse” means Solid Waste that is Reused by the Generator or other Person, in the material’s original or altered state, and is thereby diverted from Recycling, composting or Disposal. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to include incineration of any kind, landfilling, or use as an alternative daily cover for a landfill.

S. “Secretary” means the Secretary of the VT Agency of Natural Resources.

T. “Self-Hauler” means a person who Transports and delivers his or her own Solid Waste or Solid Waste from other individuals within a member municipality for no compensation.

U. “Separate” and “Separation” means the segregation and collection of materials, apart from Solid Waste destined for Disposal, for the sole purpose of Recycling, Reuse, composting, or special handling.

V. “Solid Waste” means any: Discarded garbage; refuse; septage; sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply plant, or pollution control facility; Recyclables and other waste destined for composting, Reuse or Recycling; Special Waste; Unregulated Hazardous Waste; and other discarded material including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous materials, but does not include: (i) animal manure and absorbent bedding used for soil enrichment; (ii) high carbon bulking agents used in composting; (iii) solid or dissolved materials in industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under the
Site Selection Criteria for Transfer Station or MRF

Water Pollution Control Act (10 V.S.A. Chapter 47); or (iv) Hazardous Waste that does not qualify as Unregulated Hazardous Waste.

W. “Solid Waste Implementation Plan” and “SWIP” means the Solid Waste Implementation Plan developed and adopted by the District on March 19, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §2202a, as such SWIP is amended from time to time.


Y. “Special Waste” means: discarded major appliances; electronics; empty compressed gas cylinders; tires; scrap metal larger than one (1) cubic foot or weighing more than twenty-five (25) pounds; non-friable asbestos-containing materials; liquid latex paint; sludge from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment facility, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; Leaf and Yard Residuals; Food Residuals; deceased animals of any type or size, and offal; free-standing liquids, including grease; fluorescent light bulbs; mercury-containing devices; PCB ballasts and capacitors; cathode ray tubes; used oil; used antifreeze; waste pesticides; automotive (wet-cell) batteries; nickel-cadmium and other rechargeable batteries; mercuric-oxide batteries; and silver-oxide batteries, which, for whatever reason, are to be managed separately from other Solid Waste. Special Waste does not include Regulated Medical Waste, Regulated Hazardous Waste, and Unregulated Hazardous Waste. The list of Special Waste may be established and modified from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors or by the District acting in accordance with policies and/or guidelines established and adopted by, and that may be amended from time to time by, the Board of Supervisors. A current official list of Special Waste shall be maintained by the District and be available at the District office.

Z. “Transfer” means to carry, remove, Transport, or shift Solid Waste from one place, Facility, vehicle, trailer, or container to another.

AA. “Transfer Station” means facilities that manage Solid Waste for both diversion and disposal, including Municipal Solid Waste (“MSW”) and Construction & Demolition Debris (“C&D”) (Solid Waste Rules §6-902(B)).

BB. “Transport” means any movement of Solid Waste by air, rail, highway, or water.

III. Background

A. Transfer Station
A Transfer Station must obtain a full certification from the VT Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") prior to operation. At such a Transfer Station, Solid Waste would be transferred from relatively small volume carriers, such as 15 to 35-cubic-yard compactor vehicles, light trucks with or without trailers, roll-off trucks, cars and other vehicles, and loaded / compacted into high-volume trailers for transport to a disposal site or to recycling facilities. Activities at the Transfer Station would include the collection of a variety of waste materials that are prepared for recycling markets and transported in trailers and other types of vehicles to recyclers.

The District owns and operates a Transfer Station to consolidate MSW and C&D destined for a landfill, incinerator or other disposal facility outside of Addison County. The facility also collects waste materials that are consolidated and transported to reuse, recycling and composting facilities. In considering the siting of additional Transfer Stations, the District would require a Transfer Station capable of handling up to an estimated 50 tons of MSW per day. A facility of this size, including an enclosed building and processing area, would occupy a minimum of one acre of land.

A variety of concerns must be addressed in order to obtain permits from the State and the Town/City where the Facility is located. General concerns about noise, odor control, visual screening, landscaping, traffic, blowing debris, vectors, and potential pollution from the facilities will be addressed through state and local controls, as well as through the criteria listed herein. A Transfer Station must be included in the District’s Solid Waste Implementation Plan and any regional plan.

B. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

MRFs are similar to light industrial or commercial enterprises in terms of truck traffic, visual appearance, and operation. At a MRF, recyclables will be delivered to the facility daily. They will be processed, temporarily stored, and then transported to markets specific to each recyclable material.

A MRF must obtain a categorical certification from ANR. Further local control over landscaping, setback, noise and traffic may be provided through requirements of the Town with adopted zoning ordinances. According to §6-302(A)(4) of the Rules, recycling facilities that accept, aggregate, store and/or process less than fifty (50) tons of recyclable materials per year are exempt from regulation.

IV. STATE SITING CRITERIA

According to §6-701 of the Rules, the following requirements apply to all Solid Waste management facilities with the exception of those facilities that meet the requirements for categorical certifications. The requirements of this Subchapter are the minimum requirements, and
additional requirements specific to the type of Solid Waste Facility are presented in the relevant Facility specific subchapters.

**Prohibited Areas (§6-702)**

Facilities are prohibited from being sited in the following designated areas:

1. Class I and II groundwater areas;

2. Class I and Class II wetlands and their associated buffer zones, as defined in the VT Wetlands Rules, unless a Conditional Use Determination has been issued by the Agency;

3. Class III wetlands and their associated buffer zones, as defined in the VT Wetlands Rules, unless a Conditional Use Determination has been issued by the Agency;

4. Class III wetlands, as defined by the VT Wetlands Rules, unless a Water Quality Certification has been issued pursuant to 40 CFR Part 401, or has been waived by the Agency;

5. A National Wildlife Refuge as designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

6. A wildlife management area as designated by the Agency;

7. A threatened or endangered species habitat area as designated by the Agency, except for diffuse disposal facilities;

8. Floodways, mapped fluvial erosion hazard zones;

9. Within 100-year flood plains, except for land application sites as provided in §6-1305(E);

10. A watershed for a Class A Waters; and

11. Within 500 feet of an Outstanding Resource Water. This criterion does not apply to previously certified storage, transfer or recycling facilities where there is no expansion of the Facility beyond the previously certified waste management boundary.
Siting Standards (§6-703)

A. Facilities shall be located such that an emission or discharge from the facility will not unduly harm the public health and safety and will have the least possible reasonable impact on the environment.

B. An applicant must satisfactorily demonstrate the following:

1. The isolation distances from the high seasonal water table, bedrock and surface waters are sufficient to ensure that an emission or discharge from the Facility will meet all applicable environmental quality and public health standards and rules.

2. The isolation distance to public and private drinking water sources is sufficient to ensure that an emission or discharge from the Facility will not adversely affect drinking water.

3. The isolation distances to property lines must adhere to local zoning regulations, where applicable, for any residence, school, day-care facility, hospital or nursing home, not owned by the applicant and are sufficient to minimize negative impacts such as:
   i. Objectionable odors off site;
   ii. Unreasonable visual impact, including light pollution, off site;
   iii. Increased level of noise detectable off site; or
   iv. Otherwise adversely affect public health.

4. The minimum isolation distances for the Facility or activity listed in Table A are met, or significantly increased, to make the demonstrations required under §6-703B(1-3) of the Rules.

5. The Facility is not located in areas that have serious development limitations, such as highly erodible soils, steep slopes, or do not have the physical capability to support the facility.

6. The Facility is accessible from a state or federal highway or a Class III or better town highway.

C. The Secretary may request any additional information necessary to determine if a proposed Facility meets the standards contained in this section.
Numerical Criteria

Excerpt from §6-703 of the Rules, “Table A: Required minimum isolation distances” (for storage, transfer, and recycling facilities):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>Minimum Distances by Facility Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Storage, Transfer, and Recycling Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum vertical separation from high seasonal water table</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum vertical separation to bedrock</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum distance to waters from the waste management boundary</td>
<td>100’⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum distance from waste management boundary to drinking water source not owned by the applicant</td>
<td>100’⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum distance to property line from waste management boundary</td>
<td>50’⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum distance from waste management boundary to residences, schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes, not owned by the applicant</td>
<td>100’⁷</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁴ These criteria apply for all facilities constructed after the effective date of these Rules and for facilities constructed prior to the effective date of these Rules where expansions or modifications result in a reduction in the isolation distance to a drinking water source.

⁶ These criteria apply only to facilities constructed after July 1, 1998. The Secretary may approve a distance which is less than 50 feet if the operator makes a satisfactory demonstration under § 6-703(B)(3).

⁷ These criteria apply only to initial certification of new facilities or modifications of existing facilities certified after October 1, 2004.”

According to §6-903(A), “Storage, Transfer, Recycling and Processing Facilities Siting”, there are no additional siting requirements for these facilities beyond the requirements of §6-703.

V. REGIONAL SITING CRITERIA

1. Acreage for Facility and buffer zone.

   Definition: Acreage is defined as the total land area needed to accommodate the Facility structure, storage/parking area, access roads, and associated lands to buffer the Facility from adjacent uses or roadways.

   Acceptable Minimum: One acre of land.

2. Compliance with state, regional and local plans, ordinances and zoning regulations.
The Facility shall be planned, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable regional and local plans and ordinances.

3. Access to Class I Town Highway or State Numbered Route, or better.

VI. PREFERRED SITING CRITERIA

These Criteria further recommend that preference be given to:

1. Utilization or adaptation of existing buildings or structures, to the maximum extent feasible, over construction of a new facility;

2. Sites that are farthest away from residences or public places when sites are determined to be equivalent;

3. Sites on land owned by or available for purchase by the Facility operator.

4. Sites >1 acre.

5. Existing brownfields or paved land to lessen impact on the environment and undeveloped areas and surrounding environment.