

# SUMTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE

SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Dept. Of Environmental Protection

OCT 16 2008

Southwest District

October 7, 2008

Deborah A. Getzoff  
District Director Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest District  
13051 North Telecom Parkway  
Temple Terrace, Fl. 33637-0926

RE: Proposed Settlement of Warning Letter # WL08-0008SW60SWD  
Sumter County Materials Recovery Facility  
OGC File No.: 08-2376

Dear Ms. Getzoff:

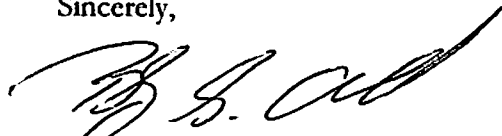
Subsequent to our Public Works Solid Waste Department discussing the subject matter with your staff; Sumter County would like to request that you consider a waiver of the civil penalties referenced in your September 30, 2008 settlement letter and August 15, 2008 warning letter. The County is expeditiously working to seek a final resolution of this matter by connecting the existing leachate collection system to the City of Bushnell's wastewater treatment plant. To date, plans are 90% complete and it is anticipated that this connection will cost approximately \$40,000 and be completed 120 days after Department of Environmental Protection approval. This piping system will also take the Animal Control Facility, located north and east of the Solid Waste Office, and the Solid Waste Office off of a septic system and connect them to the waste water treatment plant. The total cost of this project is expected to be approximately \$150,000. This project was in the planning stage well before the inspection of June 26, 2008, and is expected to be completed in 2009. Therefore, taking the above into consideration, as well as the following, we feel strongly that the \$3,500 civil penalty would be best utilized to offset to final resolution of the matter:

- 1) The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recognizes, as stated in the letter assessing the penalty, dated September 30, 2008, that "corrective actions required to bring the facility into compliance have been performed."
- 2) DEP has not had a leachate water complaint against Sumter County since a pump failure was noted in an inspection report dated 1/17/06.
- 3) There was no failure of any part of the leachate water collection system or any pump, it was simply completely full.
- 4) An order was placed for a vacuum truck on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, to empty the leachate holding tank and collection system. The leachate collection system was not full at this time. This vacuum truck did not arrive until Friday, June 27, 2008.
- 5) Rainfall on the evening of Wednesday, June 25, 2008 filled the leachate collection system. Another call was made for the vacuum truck on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

- 6) **No leachate water escaped the concrete floor** of the Materials Recovery Facility. (MRF)
- 7) The leachate pumps were turned off of automatic because the holding tank it pumps into was full and the over-flow cycles back into the leachate collection system.
- 8) A new policy concerning leachate water has been adopted by the Sumter County Solid Waste Department which is: A measuring device is used to track the level of leachate water in the collection system. The collection system is now not allowed to be over one half full before a vacuum truck is called to empty the system.
- 9) DEP personnel were informed, on their site visit of March 7, 2008, that Sumter County was making plans to connect the leachate collection system to the City of Bushnell Waste Water Treatment Plant. (WWTP) This project is now in the engineering stage with drawings to be submitted to DEP as they become available.
- 10) Construction cost to connect the leachate collection system to the WWTP is expected to be approximately \$40,000. This connection will also take the restrooms in the MRF off of a septic tank system.
- 11) Connection to the WWTP will insure this type of problem does not happen in the future. The system we are now using will be left in place for a back-up.
- 12) The Animal Control Facility and the Solid Waste Department Office will also be connected to the WWTP. This will remove both sites off of a septic system.
- 13) The total cost of connection to the WWTP will be approximately \$150,000.
- 14) Sumter County is recognized by the State of Florida as a "Small County" and qualifies for a Small County Solid Waste Grant. This grant is vital to the operation of the Sumter County Solid Waste Department.
- 15) Sumter County does not have a tax assessment for waste disposal.
- 16) Sumter County does not have any form of "flow control" for solid waste that would guarantee all of the solid waste generated in Sumter County would come to the Sumter County Solid Waste Department and there is another privately owned transfer station in operation in Sumter County.
- 17) The Sumter County Solid Waste Department operates as an enterprise fund, relying on revenue generated by the Solid Waste Department and the Solid Waste Grant to fund all operations of the Solid Waste Department.
- 18) There was never any intent by the Sumter County Solid Waste Department to violate any DEP regulation. Action was taken to avoid any problem with the leachate water and if the vacuum truck had arrived as expected the collection system would not have gotten full.
- 19) Small Counties across Florida are struggling with the economy in the turmoil it is presently in and Sumter County is not an exception to this.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gary Kuhl, Public Works Director. We appreciate the consideration given to this request and await a positive response.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Arnold  
County Administrator

cc: Susan J. Pelz, P.E. FDEP SWD

Gary Kuhl, P.E. Public Works Director

Jimmy Wise, Operations Specialist Solid Waste Department

William F. Stevens Jr., P.E. Assistant Director