

Hopper Disposal Permit Facility Application

Docket 17-5801

November 28, 2017

Closing Remarks

I'm passionate about life. Every morning I wake up excited for what the day will have to offer. I am a creator and I love progress. Some people aspire to what the world views as glamorous professions. Some choose to be public servants, and some choose to be the lowly garbage man. I have an awesome job! Everyone loves the garbage man! Despite how much I love what I do, the purpose of the hearing was not to rave about Mike Dimick.

The purpose was not to highlight a list of faults in another human being. The purpose was to discuss a low-volume/low-hazard transfer station permit. Was the permit process followed correctly? Did the DEQ make a mistake in judgement for approving the permit as received? Period. The rest of whom and what Mike Dimick is, was, will become, stands for, etc....is not listed on the permit application. Based on the facts presented during the hearing, it is evident the requirements were met, the rules have been followed, and our goal remains the same: to have the God given right to succeed or fail. The bond has been paid. We are ready to further unite a community through the means of recycling and striving to do what we can do to make Fremont County, WY a cleaner place to live.

Application review process and finding

It is proposed a low-volume/low-hazard municipal solid waste transfer station be located at 450 N. Smith Rd, Riverton WY. The facility will occupy 7 acres in Fremont County. Waste types accepted for storage, transfer, and recycling include MSW, C&D, electronic waste, CRT's, scrap tires, green waste, lead acid batteries, used oil, used antifreeze, and source-separated recyclables as defined in Chapter 1, section 1(b) of the Solid Waste Rules and Regulations.

The permit was complete by Mike Dimick, owner of Hopper Disposal. Patrick Troxel, District #2 Supervisor was the SHWD Reviewer. The application was received March 3, 2017 and June 17, 2017. The review was completed July 20, 2017.

The following are the requirements of the permit and comments to the completion process:

- General Information
 - Application Form (Section 2.c.i)
 - Must use double-sided form provided by the department (see Solid Waste Guideline #3)
 - Must be signed and dated by landowner
 - Must be signed and dated by applicant
 - Applicant signature must be notarized

District Findings: Complete and Technically Adequate

- Exhibits
 - USGS Topographic Map (Section 2.c.iv)
 - USGS map must be an original (scale of 1:24,000)
 - If facility is located within a city or town, a map of the city or town may be used in lieu of the original USGS map
 - Must ID facility location

District Findings: Complete and Technically Adequate

- Financial Assurance
 - Cost Estimated (Section 2.c.viii)
 - Must container estimated for a 3rd party to complete each closure task
 - May use published data if properly referenced
 - May use local contractor bids if they are signed, dated, valid for a minimum of one (1) year and identify the SHWD as a potential client

- Must use 15% contingency fee
- See Wyoming Solid Waste Rules and Regulations Chapter 7, Section 1(b)(i)(F)-Solid waste management facilities other than those regulated under Chapter 2, which are owned or operated by a municipality are exempt from the requirement to demonstrate financial assurance

District Findings: Complete and Technically Adequate

- Mechanism (Section 2.c.viii)
 - Allowable mechanisms include self-bonds, federally-insured certificated of deposit, government-backed securities, cash, or letters of credit
 - Mechanism must be reviewed and approved by SHWD bonding analyst and senior assistant attorney general

District Findings: Complete and Technically Adequate- Financial Assurance Bond Acceptance Approval issued on June 29, 2017

- Review Conclusions
 - Is the application “complete”? **YES**
 - Is the application “Technically Adequate”? **YES**
 - Is the application subject to Public Notice and Comment Requirements? **YES**
 - This facility is not subject to inspections before the permit can be issued.

Based on the above information and findings outlined by the Department of Environmental Quality, was the permit procedure done correctly? Yes. Was the review perfect, it was not. As highlighted by opposing parties, there was an oversight in the financial assurance regarding the 15% contingency. The amount short of 15% was \$702.50. If will please the opposing parties, I would propose the amount be added to the cash bond of \$11,350.00 that has already been provided by Hopper Disposal.

Aside from the \$702.50 shortfall, when the question is asked, “has the permit process been completed as outline by the rule book?” the findings substantiate there is no reason to deny permit approval.

Opposing Parties Formal Complaints & Responses

- Scott McFarland
 - Issues regarding the actual shortcoming in the permit application: NONE
 - Issues regarding “Mr. Dimick”: personal opinions stated
 - Prior to Nov. 9th, 2017, never met Mr. McFarland

- Wyoming Waste Systems
 - Issues regarding the actual shortcoming in the permit application: NONE
 - Issues regarding Hopper Disposal: personal opinions stated
 - Issue of “lack of experience”
 - Complaint issued by Jennifer Boysen
 - Estimated employment with Waste Connections: 1 year
 - Previous employment: oil, gas, and aviation industry
 - Residence listed in: Jackson Hole, WY
 - Not in attendance of Nov. 9th meeting, still have never met Mrs. Boysen

- Fremont County Commissioner
 - Issues regarding the actual shortcoming in the permit application: NONE
 - Issues regarding “Mike Dimick”: personal opinions stated
 - Prior to Nov. 9th, 2017, limited communication with the Fremont County Commissioners

- Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District
 - Issues regarding the actual shortcoming in the permit application: noted a shortfall in the financial assurance estimate of \$702.20.
 - Issues regarding “Mike Dimick”: personal opinions stated

- Amy Hanson
 - Complaint formally withdrawn
 - Prior to Nov. 9th, 2017, nor after meeting, never met Mrs. Hanson

Conclusion

I stand firm in my decision to fight for what I feel is right. Sometimes you have to stand alone. Sometimes you have to face adversity. Sometimes you have to dig deep and put on your big boy pants while the world throws rocks at you. Sometimes you have to look Goliath in the eye and have faith that with one shot, you can take down the giant. Sometimes, it is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. Sometimes simple people with simple dreams do extraordinary things.

Despite the efforts of many to prove that Fremont County is not in need of a recycling center as we have planned to build, we disagree. It has been highlighted that the permit application is in need of a couple minor adjustments, we do not shirk from those modifications. While people have shown that Mike Dimick was accused of one NOV from one day in his life, it has been ignored that the other 2499 days of operation have been positive. Although no volume of waste burnt was submitted, suppose it was a couple hundred pounds, even 500 pounds, it has been ignored that more than 10,000 ton of scrap metal have been recycled, 1000s of tons of waste have been hauled to landfills, and 100s of tons cleaned up from illegal dumping inside Fremont County. Finally, one must laugh at the irony of accusations of falling short on site preparations (ie. fencing, barricades, safety zones, water plans, etc.) when those same groups are so quick to push for “permit violation” for construction without a permit for a scale foundation.

As human beings, it is our responsibility to do our part in sustaining our environment. If recycling was easy everyone would do it, but it takes work. Moreover, it takes risk to provide a service center where such activity can be promoted and sustained. We have followed the rules to be given the opportunity to store, transfer, and recycle waste within the parameters that the Department of Environmental Quality requires. Our bond has been paid in case we fail. I am honored that so many have chosen to impede progress. I truly believe that if people thought this was just a fly by night, harebrained scheme, no one would have lifted a finger to argue.

Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (discoverer of vitamin c) said, “Innovation is seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.” Despite people’s incredulousness to the possibility of a successful, private, and self-sustaining recycle program on the “island” of Fremont County Wyoming, we know what we can do. We have proven sustainability these past 7 years. However, this hearing was not about the good or bad opinions of Mike Dimick. This hearing was not about hoppermetals. This hearing was to verify Hopper Disposal followed the rules for a low-volume/low-hazard transfer station to be located at 450 N. Smith Rd, Riverton WY. We did

Mike Dimick

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Mike Dimick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

November 28, 2017