

SUPPLEMENT TO AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #8: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

PLANNING HORIZON 2018-2047

NEXT STEPS

In October 2007, the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of the eight localities that are members of the Southeastern Public Service Authority of Virginia (SPSA) requested that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) facilitate a study to assist the region's leaders to determine the best means of waste disposal for the region after 2018 when the current SPSA member contracts expire. The HRPDC, with assistance from representatives from the member communities, selected SCS Engineers, a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in Waste Management. Throughout 2008, SCS Engineers worked with the Solid Waste Plan 2018 Technical Committee, consisting of the eight CAOs and technical representatives from the member communities, to conduct the study. The study effort included technical research and analysis by SCS and facilitated discussions with the 2018 Technical Committee and the individual CAOs.

The report evaluates the waste generated by the region, disposal options currently and potentially available, as well as current and emerging technologies. Alternatives considered include a continued regional authority, no regional authority, contracted services, publicly provided services, various waste to energy alternatives, and funding alternatives. Alternative institutional and governance approaches are also addressed.

Related but separate initiatives that will have an impact on the outcome and recommendations of the Regional Study for the period post 2018 include:

- Potential sale by SPSA of the waste to energy (WTE) system. Negotiations are currently underway. The potential sale of the WTE system could significantly impact the final recommendations.
- Auditor of Public Accounts Report on SPSA. This report was released in October 2008. SPSA and its Board are reviewing the findings relative to current operations. The report would likely be useful in evaluating the framework for a future regional waste management cooperative.

The report, Solid Waste Management for Southside Hampton Roads Planning Horizon 2018-2047, is presented as an interim draft for review by the governing bodies of the eight participating localities and the SPSA Board. Copies of the report will be available on the HRPDC website, www.hrpdcva.gov, in the HRPDC library and in the offices of each of the eight localities. Comments will be accepted through January 20, 2009. The report is anticipated to be completed in Spring/Summer 2009.

To finalize a regional recommendation on solid waste management in Southside Hampton Roads (SPSA Service Area), a number of steps are required. Given the number of pending SPSA decisions that are likely to impact on the future (post 2018) solid waste management system, time is of the essence.

November 19, 2008 – Presentation of Interim Final Report to HRPDC Executive Committee and SPSA Board. The HRPDC will refer the Report to the eight affected localities for review and comment.

December >>, 2008 (date to be determined) – CAO and 2018 Technical Committee convene to address outstanding policy issues related to the management of the region's solid waste post 2018. Issues to be addressed during this discussion include:

- Establishment of a framework for a mission and goals statement. This would facilitate governing body consideration of the Interim Final Report.
- Examination of alternative approaches to Board composition – weighted or proportional voting, qualifications of members.
- Development of parameters for determining host fees, as an alternative to the current practice of reducing tipping fees for localities that host certain facilities.
- Examination of vehicles for financing future solid waste management – waste generation fee, tipping fee, other.
- SPSA Financial decisions, including sale of the WTE component, sale of other facilities, financing of post 2018 closure costs. There is the potential for reducing short-term costs by extending life of SPSA which could allow for a longer debt reduction period in the context of further enhancements to SPSA financial management.
- Develop process and schedule for siting and permitting a new regional landfill.

January 20, 2009 – Target date for completion of initial local government review of the Interim Final Report.

January >>, 2009 (date to be determined) – CAO and 2018 Technical Committee convene to address local governing body comments on the Interim Final Report.

Spring 2009 – SPSA Board expected to decide on sale of WTE (RDF and Power Plant) facilities.

Spring/Summer 2009 – The CAOs finalize a recommendation to the localities and SPSA on post-2018 Solid Waste Management in Southside Hampton Roads. This would provide the basis and framework for decisions by local governing bodies. This recommendation should be developed within sixty (60) days following a SPSA decision on sale of WTE facilities.