

Comment or Question at March 9th Meeting	Response Provided on March 9th (if needed)	Updated Information / Response as needed
<p>Commissioner Calabria asked whether GFL will cover the active area with tarp at night and is any area is left uncovered overnight.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock said that the landfill is fully covered every night. By using dirt/soil as the primary cover up to half an acre will be covered with tarps. He said that GFL needs the half an acre in the morning because trucks will be waiting in line to dump.</p>	<p>The landfill covers the entire active area (waste placement operations area) each night with a combination of soil, tarps, or another approved alternate daily cover (ADC) material. There is no area with exposed (uncovered) waste left overnight.</p>
<p>Commissioner Calabria asked for a start date of the process of covering with dirt/soil.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock shared that the process will start within 30 days.</p>	<p>Due to equipment failures, working face size and weather-related issues, conversion to dirt/soil cover (with tarps) was finally accomplished on 7/28/20 and has continued since.</p>
<p>Commissioner Calabria asks about start time for landfill gas collection system.</p>		<p>Landfill gas system was installed in 2010 and has been expanded and upgraded in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Additional upgrades and expansion will be underway in the next few weeks. The system is being expanded at an accelerated schedule compared to regulatory requirements.</p>

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<p>Vice-Chair Adamson asked if other landfills operated by GFL are also operated in similar urban settings and if so, what is being done in those locations that Wake County is not operating. Adamson also inquires about incinerators and if GFL operates any waste-to-energy incinerator facilities.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock replied that GFL does not have a landfill in the similar urban setting as the SWLF. GFL does not operate any incinerators as landfilling is much less expensive and land is generally available in the southeast.</p>	
<p>Commissioner Hutchinson asked about the tarp and other items and if they will take the place of the posi-shell as alternate daily cover. Commissioner Hutchinson asks if the tarps would then move along with the waste stream and if it's a problem if the waste becomes exposed.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock says that the exclusive use of dirt/soil and tarps will eliminate the need for Posi-shell. Waste must be exposed during the daily operations but is covered every night.</p>	<p>By eliminating Posi-shell the County has lost a valuable recycling component of our waste stream and valuable air space; however, due to the lack of odor fighting characteristics of Posi we have okayed this approach.</p>
<p>Commissioner Hutchinson asks where primarily dirt/soil cover has been implemented in the country and what the results were.</p>	<p>Mr. Bryan Wuester, Corporate Landfill Director, GFL, said that the concept has been used many places and provides reasonable results.</p>	

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<p>Commissioner Calabria said that there is a double-digit percentage of residents in Holly Springs that smell odors because of the dense area. He said that this is the most urbanized area that they are working in and asked if is typical to be able to smell a quarter mile from a site.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock said that any waste site has odors and those odors can stretch well beyond a quarter mile under certain weather conditions.</p>	<p>The solid waste industry acknowledges that solid waste disposal facilities (landfills) typically generate some degree of detectable odors. The intensity, frequency, duration, and extent of any detectable odors varies depending on a multitude of parameters. The objective of the SWLF OMCP is to identify strategies that will continue to be implemented at the Facility to reduce the intensity, frequency, duration, and extent of detectable offensive odors that have the potential to impact the surrounding communities.</p>
<p>Commissioner Calabria asks, “In your view it’s not that the landfill is atypical, it’s that the context in which it sits is different than what you are used to?” Commissioner Calabria asks if the things that GFL intends to try for odor mitigation are materially different than what you have tried so far.</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock says yes and explains that a variety of techniques are planned for use to see what works best.</p>	<p>The SWLF OMCP documents a multitude of various strategies, techniques, and methods to accomplish odor mitigation, abatement, and control.</p>

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<p>Commissioner Calabria asked why additional measures were not taken earlier in the process.</p>		<p>Measures have been taken in the past such as, Byers Unit, Rusmar Foam and the odor no more additive to posi-shell, among other initiatives as documented in the SWLF OMCP. On-site management (for GFL) may have played a role in how quickly various odor control measures are/were being tried and evaluated. New on-site management is in place now. The SWLF OMCP outlines detailed discussion regarding past, current, and potential future odor monitoring and control measures.</p>
<p>Commissioner West shared his thoughts on a previous landfill situation and wanted to know what is different this time with this landfill. Commissioner West asks what the difference is between the landfill in Holly Springs and previous landfills in Wake County. He asks mostly about the Wilders Grove site.</p>	<p>Mr. Roy Baldwin, Solid Waste Facilities Manager-Projects, made comments on the landfill situation in the past and what is happening currently at the landfill and the urban area that differs from other facilities.</p>	<p>The Wilders Grove Landfill was not located around any homes and was located in a heavy industrial/commercial area. The North Wake Landfill, which is surrounded by homes also experienced similar odor related issues during the period that it had active waste placement operations.</p>

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<p>Commissioner Hutchinson asks where do we go from here if this doesn't work?</p>	<p>Mr. Hitchcock shared details regarding a potential technique that involves use of exposed geo-membrane cover (EGC) as an interim cap on portions of the landfill that will receive additional waste lifts at some future time. Mr. Bob Dick, PE-VP SCS Engineers, shared his work with the county and his opinion of what has been implemented through the county. He said that the county has implemented appropriate pro-active methodologies, strategies and techniques that are available within the solid waste industry as a best management practice except for the use of exposed geo-membrane cover.</p>	<p>The SWLF OMCP outlines a multitude of various strategies, techniques, and methods to accomplish improved odor mitigation, abatement, and control at the Facility.</p>
<p>Chairman Ford asked about the timeline that would trigger this option.</p>	<p>Mr. Dick said that it would be appropriate to consult with staff and return with an update.</p>	<p>The use of an exposed geo-membrane cover for areas that are not being used (temporarily inactive but will receive additional waste lifts at some future date) will mainly help with odors not related to waste placement operations (i.e., improve LFG system efficiency, reduce fugitive LFG emissions, maintain cover integrity, etc.). Ultimately there will always be a working face that has to open each day. The County and GFL are willing to consider geomembrane cover.</p>

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<p>Commissioner Holmes asked if the smell in the landfill has increased because of usage or has the density of the area increased. She asked if there would ever be zero or limited smells from the landfill and if a citizen moving to the area is notified of the landfill. Commissioner Holmes asks “if you move close to a landfill, then you should expect to smell something at some point during the day?”</p>	<p>Mr. Dick said that he is not aware of any landfill being zero odor. He said that the goal of the county and GFL are to mitigate/minimize odors as much as possible.</p>	<p>The solid waste industry acknowledges that solid waste disposal facilities (landfills) typically generate some degree of detectable odors. The intensity, frequency, duration, and extent of any detectable odors varies depending on a multitude of parameters. The objective of the SWLF OMCP is to identify strategies that will continue to be implemented at the Facility to reduce the intensity, frequency, duration, and extent of detectable offensive odors that have the potential to impact the surrounding communities.</p>
<p>Vice- Chair Adamson asked about the disposal of solid waste in Mecklenburg County.</p>	<p>Mr. Dick said that Mecklenburg County disposes waste at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.</p>	<p>Our understanding is that MSW generated in Mecklenburg County is transported and disposed of at the Republic Services Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill in Concord, NC. Construction and demolition waste is disposed of at the County’s Foxhole C&D Landfill.</p>

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<p>Councilwoman Kelly said that the Town of Holly Springs wants to help the community. She said that one-fifth of the residents are affected by the landfill and they are asking the town for help. She said that although the county has made provisions to assist, the odor is still prevalent. She said that advocacy is needed from the community. She shared some of the questions that residents are asking. She asked the board to offer a parallel plan and not a 10 year plan. She said that it is not a healthy site for the community, and the town needs assistance from the board.</p>		<p>Options to close the landfill in advance of achieving its full capacity are likely not viable options due to numerous factors, including costs, logistics, lack of alternative transfer facilities, contractual obligations, interlocal agreements, and the needs associated with managing the region’s solid waste. There are 11 other municipalities that rely solely on the SWLF for waste disposal and without such would see their solid waste transportation and disposal costs increase by approximately 2 to 3 times. This increase includes the Town of Holly Springs. Closing the landfill early would also position the municipal jurisdictions to be dependent upon the availability and pricing of private-sector transportation contractors and disposal facilities. Please refer to a more detailed discussion of this topic in the BOC Work Session narrative document. The County would need to make sure that the totality of the circumstances is examined in full.</p>

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<p>Mayor Dick Sears, Town of Holly Springs, said that different solutions have been tried but have not worked. He said that he received a call from his wife about the odor and asked the board to pursue the timeline. He said that there may be a solution that no one has spoken about. He said that a resident uses a high level oxygenated water that works on garbage cans, garbage pits and that he thinks that this worth a try.</p>		<p>Since the BOC Work Session, the Bio-Catalyst Pilot has been undertaken – and a report is being provided.</p>
<p>Commissioner Calabria thanked staff and GFL for today's presentation. He said that the board has seen community frustration, and something has to change. He suggested that an agenda item be placed on the Growth and Sustainability Committee meeting in the near future. He said that near term solutions are needed.</p>		
<p>Commissioner Evans thanked staff and GFL for their continued work on the landfill issue and said that it's time to think about other options beyond the landfill.</p>		<p>Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan report provides insight to Comm. Evans comment.</p>