

**RIVERTON CITY LANDFILL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT**

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**1.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

The National Solid Waste Management Programme (NSWMP) being implemented by the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) is intended to improve the management of solid waste throughout Jamaica. The development of the proposed Riverton City Landfill will entail a) the conversion of the existing dump into a non-conforming landfill and b) the construction of a sanitary landfill, including leachate ponds, on land immediately adjacent to the dump.

The objective of the proposed project is to develop the existing Riverton dump into a regional controlled landfill serving the designated watershed. The project includes the following components:

- Closure and sealing off, of the existing waste dump at Riverton
- Construction in stages of a new controlled landfill to the west of the active area
- Construction of leachate ponds
- Establishment of solid waste transfer stations

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) requested an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project. The EIA was completed in October 2001 and NEPA also requested a Public Meeting as a part of the EIA Process. A Public Meeting was held on September 17, 2002. This report documents the proceeding of the Public Meeting and has been prepared for submission to NEPA.

## **2.0 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcome and Opening Remarks were given by Mrs. Ianthe Smith, Project Manager at the Project Executing Unit in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development.

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

Two presentations were given:

- a. “National Solid Waste Management Programme, Riverton Landfill” was given by Mrs. Ianthe Smith. A copy of this presentation is given in Section 3.1.
  
- b. “Riverton City Landfill, Environmental Impact Assessment” was given by Mrs. Sharonmae Shirley, Technical Services Manager of Environmental Solutions Ltd. A copy of this presentation is given in Section 3.2.

#### 4.0 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The meeting was then opened for questions from the audience. The following is a report of this session.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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##### ALTERNATIVE SITE:

**Q 1: Considering Highway 2000 – can another site be used?**

A: Even after closing and capping several years would have to pass before the site can be used for something else. No we can't abandon the site, we are using the site now and even if we were to close the site it takes a while to close it properly and there would have to be ongoing monitoring. The site could not be used for anything else for many years. The intention is to remain in the Riverton area because it is still the best location so far for the waste disposal for the Kingston Metropolitan Area and the watershed that has been described.

**Q2: Why is it considered the best?**

A: The site is currently considered the best location because of its proximity to the areas of generation of waste. There is a cost factor itself and there are a number of other issues that would mitigate against another site at this time. It is possible for the future but right now and for the next 15-20 years we propose to remain at the Riverton site.

**Q3: What is the life time for the area considering the growth of the KMA?**

A: The lifetime for the landfill is estimated at 15 years. The emphasis is not only at disposal of waste. The option exists for other aspects of waste management, at the same time we have to look at the generation of waste across the island.

We need to implement waste minimization measures at the household level and also within the industries, so that concurrently with the development of the landfill site there will be other measures to reduce the increase in the flow of waste. It is possible that the site could last longer than 15 years if we are successful in implementing waste minimization techniques.

**HOUSING:****Q4: How can we address the issue of the close proximity of Operation Pride subdivision to the Riverton Site?**

A: A dispersion model was used to determine the closest receptors and those houses were used as the closest. Even before the Operation Pride units, the informal units were used as the closest receptors so they were also used as a factor in determining the model.

On the question as to why those houses are there on the Riverton site, I really could not answer that question. The Riverton site was there as a dump before the houses were built, and therefore the potential impacts were apparent. The developers chose to use the site in spite of the potential impacts.

We recognize that it is a very sensitive situation so one of the things we would like to do is to build a buffer zone with berms, trees, etc. that will reduce the impact of the land fill site on the housing. We also plan to speak with NHDC about removing one row of the planned housing that would be adjacent to the access road, as it would be too dusty and noisy.

**Q5: Will the adjacent wetlands be destroyed?**

A: In the presentation it was indicated that the site was dry and that the wetlands were recharged from overflow south of the property close to Hunts Bay. The wetlands are recharged from these systems and not primarily from run off from the site. The wetlands will not be destroyed.

**DRAINAGE:****Q6: Where will the leachate flow?**

A: The intent is to have a series of drains that would capture run off from the existing site so together with the leachate that is collected from new site. It will all be conveyed to the evaporation ponds where there is also an option that can be explored of spreading the leachate that is collected at the evaporation site. This helps with the biodegradation of the waste. These are options that can be explored.

**Q: Does the landfill limit proper drainage of the area?**

A: No, cut off drains are to be built around landfill. The landfill does not affect drainage.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:**

**Q7: What level of coverage has been given to this report?**

A: The EIA reports are available in Parish Library and Parish Council offices (in 4 parishes). In addition we have quite good press coverage of this meeting so it should appear in the print and electronic media. The report will be at the Document Center at NEPA as well, so it can be accessed there. In the past NEPA has put the EIA's on its web site so if it is not there yet we can make arrangements to have included on the web site.

**LINERS**

**Q8: What kind of lining will be used?**

A: There are several options, geotextile liners or clay can be used to line the area.

**Q: Were other options looked at regarding liners and leachate?**

A: The issue of the liner again we have options we can use a geotextile membrane or clay there are issues to using either method.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Q: Is there any risk of transmitting STDs?**

A: Infectious waste is deposited on site and it is possible to have exposed needles from contaminated syringes. When the sorters come into contact with these they expose themselves to STDs.

**Q: Is it not illegal to dump medical waste? How can we run a country like this?**

A: Yes it is illegal to dump medical waste. In Jamaica we have low compliance rates and low enforcement. As part of the National Solid Waste Program we are working with the Ministry of Health to establish the standards required for medical waste. The Ministry of Health already has guidelines, we want to assist them to put more teeth in the law so that when persons are in breach punitive measures can apply. Right now the measures do not go very far when you want to prosecute some one for breach.

The Ministry of Health also requires that medical waste be incinerated and we have another problem in that we do not have many working incinerators in the island. That is a major problem, and when the incinerators do not work the waste ends up at Riverton.

**HAZARD WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Q: How do we deal with hazardous waste?**

A: Applications for management of hazardous waste is made to NEPA. Hazardous waste is not to go to Riverton. We understand that from time to time it ends up at Riverton however the aim is to segregate the waste.

**INCOME GENERATION**

**Q: Technical information on the project appears limited, with respect to the structural and engineering integrity of the project. Were other alternatives investigated prior to the selection of the working design?**

A: I take your point in wanting to see the technical aspects of the project. As with any project we looked at several options. We looked at issues such as the gas production and based on calculations that were done it was estimated that sufficient gas is not produced on a economically viable basis. There could not be any electricity generated, they may be sufficient gas for some cottage industries but then again there would be costs associated to harnessing that gas and to make it viable.

**Q. Has there been any consideration of a 'Waste to Energy' project?**

A: All forms of recycling are encouraged. 'Waste to Energy' projects cannot coexist with composting for example. It is really up to the Ministry to decide what kind of project will be established.

**Q: Can the landfill be used to generate an income? Are there any economic opportunities here?**

A: Yes – there is potential

1. Composting
2. Recycling

**AIR QUALITY**

**Q: Quality of air – with better management will the Air Quality be better for persons working in the area – staff at risk?**

A: Even with wetting, particulate levels will still be exceeding the standards. However the building of the buffer zone and the use of trees, and following the management procedures that will be in place for traffic control, this should reduce the amount of particulates in the air, which will result in improvements over time.

## **WATER QUALITY**

**Q: Water Quality – draft regulations - what will be the impact of the landfill on the new water quality draft regulations on landfill?**

A: There will be no discharge to the environment. Leachate ponds will be built to collect leachate.

## **STATUS OF THE PROJECT**

**Q: Where are we at now – in terms of the landfill?**

- A:
1. New equipment acquired – landfill compactor, landfill bulldozer
  3. Need to obtain permits from NEPA
  4. Monitoring wells to be installed to get baseline information
  5. Covering has occurred – this has caused some improvement
  6. Also improvement of the roads
  7. Training of personnel.

**Q: Is there any objection route?**

A: Yes – 30 days of the staging of the consultation submit a written response to NEPA. Electronic version is accepted [esr@nepa.gov.jm](mailto:esr@nepa.gov.jm)

**Q: Is NEPA fully onboard with the proposed plan?**

A: This Public Meeting is a requirement of NEPA as a part of the EIA process. The project is trying to satisfy all of NEPA's requirements. An EIA has been conducted and the report submitted to NEPA.

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