

Let's Talk Trash

June 2008 Edition

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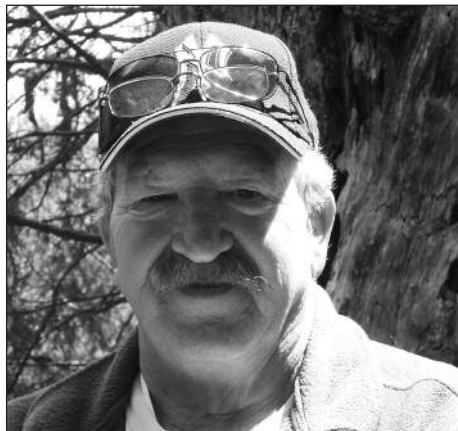
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A Repeat Performance: An Update on Jay Morrow's Life and Times

by Jack Chappelle, Engineering Solutions & Design

On 2001 we introduced you to Bernalillo County's Trash Man, Jay Morrow. At the time Jay was intimately involved in a variety of activities that would ultimately result in significant improvements to Bernalillo County's solid waste programs. He is very proud of the accomplishments of the Bernalillo County Solid Waste Department, and, in particular, points to the success of the East Mountain transfer station and the implementation of recycling programs in the county.



In 2004 Jay left the county solid waste department and became caretaker for the Bernalillo County Open Spaces Carlito Springs facility. This 170-acre site encompasses a recreational facility that includes a main building and a series of cabins that date back to the 1800's. Through his efforts and the efforts of the Youth Conservation Corp's Talking Talons group, the area has been improved significantly. Improvements include a series of stilling pools that are fed by a natural

spring on the property along with trails and rest areas to further enhance the property. As caretaker, Jay provides oversight of the property and he identifies methods to improve the on-site facilities. Further, Jay also makes every effort to obtain a complete history of the site.

Although he is not directly involved in solid waste through his present position, Jay still stays very active in both SWANA and NMRC. He has been a strong proponent for waste reduction and recycling and wants to see further efforts in these areas in New Mexico. As Jay has said in the past, "Until we can teach our citizens to produce less waste there will be a need for SWANA and NMRC."

There are some efforts that greatly interest Jay. These include pushing legislation to establish a tipping fee program similar to legislation in Colorado. This fee would be assessed to waste generators and would be utilized to improve solid waste programs throughout the state. Jay also sees a need for legislation to direct each city and county in New Mexico to implement a recycling program. This legislation would be geared toward waste reduction and reuse. Through these efforts Jay believes the State of New Mexico could really begin to put a dent in its waste generation numbers.

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Test Incentives

by Charles Ferguson,
NM Environmental Department
– Outreach

The Roadrunner Chapter Board of Directors has approved incentives for those taking the certification exams that follow each of the chapter sponsored Landfill and Transfer Station Operator Certification courses. The incentives are intended to encourage a higher level of course participation while offering tangible recognition for those students who achieve the highest exam scores.

There are two distinct incentives. The chapter will sponsor a one-year SWANA membership for each student achieving a perfect score on the certification exam. The membership will be awarded at the chapter's annual meeting to allow for the formal recognition of the recipients. Following the past nine courses, only four people have achieved perfect scores. The most recent was achieved by Bryan Staeden from the City of Roswell Landfill following the March 2008 Landfill course.

Additionally, those folks who obtain the top three exam scores following each course will garner a prize. There are always scores in the high nineties on every exam, so the competition for these prizes may get a bit close. In a situation where the third highest score is achieved by more than one individual, all who achieve that score will receive a prize.

Over the past few years the exams have gotten longer and harder. Longer exams allow for evaluation of more subject knowledge areas. Harder exams tend to raise both the level of instruction and the knowledge level of those seeking certification. The trends within the solid waste industry firmly point toward higher standards of knowledge and professionalism at all levels. The certification courses, the exams and now the Roadrunner Chapter incentives combine to "raise the bar" and recognize those who excel.

NO EXCUSES... Safety Comes First!!

by Joseph Ellis, Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority

This is a testimonial that I hope will be shared with company CEOs, City Managers, County Managers, and other solid waste authority managers. I'm here to tell you that employee injuries can be disastrous for the injured employee, his family, and for his company.

But there are things you can do, and do effectively, to manage the risks in this highly risky business. Here is our experience:

1. The governing body and chief executive officer must take the first step. A policy decision has to be made "at the top" to institute a "Culture of Safety." The success of this effort rests solely on committing the energy and resources from the top down, accepting no excuses.
2. Analyze the potential hazards, establish procedures of protection, provide ongoing training, and equip the staff with necessary safety equipment.
3. Realize that money motivates. Here at Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, we were in a survival mode three years ago, as the Worker's Compensation insurance premiums were taking us under. But the Board of Directors wisely saw that if the agency could lower the annual cost of insurance, we could share some of the savings with the employees as an end-of year safety bonus. And what an incentive that proved to be!

I signed a contract with each employee, promising to pay each person \$300 on December 31st if he had not had any time-lost days due to injuries. This one act created the basis for our "Culture of Safety," as employees would refer to protecting "My \$300." (Psychologists say that people can more readily be motivated to hold onto something they already have, than to work for something they don't have. The safety bonus contract is a tangible asset that employees will work hard to retain.)

To further reinforce the new culture, the board said that, in addition to the \$300 that would be payable to each employee and supervisor as his personal safety bonus, the three supervisors would each receive an additional \$300 bonus if all employees met their safety bonus criteria at year's end.

So the culture was being reinforced from the top, from the supervisor level, and at the employee level. And it worked. When we were drowning in red ink, we were paying a multiplier penalty of almost two-and-a-half times our worker's compensation rate. After two years of this program, the penalty is almost completely gone. And the safety bonus this year is up to \$500 per employee and \$1,000 per supervisor. But believe me, those are checks I will be happy to write!

For those interested in the format of our safety bonus contract, I'll be glad to e-mail a sample. Contact me at josephe@lobo.net. And, as I said, this is an important testimonial for the governing bodies and bosses. So please highlight this article, and slip it into the appropriate In-box!



NM Recycling Coalition Developing New Recycling Incentive

by English Bird, New Mexico Recycling Coalition

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition is in the process of drafting a 2009 legislative proposal for a progressive landfill tip surcharge, which will in turn support significant funding for recycling. The legislation, which is based on a 2007 bill passed by Colorado, is looking at a fee in the range of \$.60/ton at all landfills and transfer stations. The funding will specifically support a significant recycling grant fund, a low or no interest loan program for recycling-oriented private business, recycling technical assistance provided by the state, a statewide recycling educational campaign and a recycling rebate system. The rebate is designed to further provide incentive to the landfill or transfer stations where the fee is collected, providing that entity with a proportional rebate of the fee according to how much recycling is accomplished at that location.

Nationally, almost 75% of states have a landfill tip surcharge in place. New Mexico does not have one. The range of fees runs from \$.25/ton all the way up to \$8.75/ton. As far as we can tell, Colorado was one of the first states to add a rebate program to further provide incentive for facilities to provide recycling opportunities. In designing the New Mexico proposal, we used Colorado as a model. Over three years of development and stakeholder meetings were held to get

their bill passed. In New Mexico, we hope the process will move quicker. Thus far, in our planning process to develop the key components of the legislation, we have incorporated stakeholder input from rural landfill operators to private landfill owners to assure the proposal meets everyone's needs. In June, NMRC plans to secure a bill sponsor and then begin statewide outreach for stakeholder review and requesting entities and communities to sign on as supporters of the bill.

NMRC has set a goal to raise the statewide recycling rate to the national average of 33%. This proposal is one of the steps to bring New Mexico further along the diversion path. NM's current recycling rate is 9.7%. New Mexico currently has a small \$100,000 annual recycling grant fund established by the Recycling and Illegal Dumping Act. Other grant funds from that act include \$100,000 towards illegal dumping prevention and clean-up, and about \$600,000 for tire recycling projects. The Recycling and Illegal Dumping Alliance oversees the grant guidelines and dispersal of the recycling and illegal dumping monies. The new funding proposal will identify this entity to also oversee the new recycling grant and loan program as well. NMRC believes that an annual grant program of \$100,000

for recycling is not sufficient to accomplish large-scale improvements to recycling infrastructure and educational programs. Thus, the rationale for seeking this new funding mechanism. At the \$.60/ton fee, almost \$2 million will be generated, with roughly half of those funds going toward recycling grants and loans.

The New Mexico Recycling Conference, was held June 3-4 at the Albuquerque Marriott and had a couple sessions devoted to the bill proposal. In the first session, Marjorie Griek, executive director of the Colorado Association for Recycling and Charles Bayley with Waste Management of Colorado spoke about their similar bill, which passed in 2007. A follow-up session discussed the details of the proposal and solicited feedback from the audience.

NMRC will be happy to visit with anyone to discuss the proposed legislation. The organization aims to solicit as much stakeholder feedback and gain as much support as possible in order to move this proposal on smoothly. If your entity would like to sign on as a supporter of the proposed bill, please let us know as well! Contact English Bird, NMRC Executive Director, at 505-983-4470 or English@recyclenewmexico.com.

A Note from the President

by Terry Nelson, President SWANA New Mexico

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers (judges, organizers) and especially the City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department for putting on a great SWANA Road-E-O. We had a lot of fun and it is obvious there is a lot of talent in our solid waste truck drivers and equipment operators in New Mexico. Keep it up and we hope to see you all next year.

Join the Solid Waste Association of North America!

Membership Applications are available at
<http://swanastore.stores.yahoo.net/swanmem.html>

2008 Certified Training Class Schedule

Transfer Station	June 17-19, Ruidoso
Landfill Operation	September 8-12, Farmington
Compost Facility	October 7-9, Albuquerque
Transfer Station	November 12-14, Farmington
Recycling Facility	December 9-11, Santa Fe

2008 Member Meetings

DATE	TIME & LOCATION
Thursday, August 14	Clean Energy Albuquerque
Thursday, September 11	Special Meeting with NMED Staff at The Lodge of Santa Fe
Thursday, October 9	Moriarty Community Center
Thursday, November 13	Gordon Environmental Inc. Bernalillo
Friday, December 5	8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting, Embassy Suites Hotel, Albuquerque

Jurisdiction of Solid Waste Rail Transfer Facilities Update

by Terry Nelson, NM Environmental Department
 Solid Waste Bureau

The issue of jurisdiction over rail-based solid waste facilities has been a hot topic. Until recently, the federal Surface Transportation Board has had exclusive jurisdiction for the environmental health and safety of Solid Waste Rail Transfer Facilities (SWRTF) under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act. On December 26, 2007 President Bush signed into law H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, which has a one year provision that gives states the ability to regulate solid waste facilities on rail lines. Sponsored by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), it essentially requires the Surface Transportation Board to get permission from a state before it allows the operation of a SWRTF.

On April 28, 2008 draft legislation called "Railroad Safety Enhancements Act of 2008" (H.R. 2095) was begun to attempt a permanent fix to H.R. 2764 (only a temporary fix). Title VI (Clarification of Federal Jurisdiction over Solid Waste Facilities) of H.R. 2095 attempts to permanently require SWRTF's to be subject to all Federal and State solid waste regulations and takes the majority of jurisdiction away

from the Surface Transportation Board. It will require all existing SWRTF's to apply for a state permit within 180 days of enactment of the legislation. There is a potential sitting exemption for existing facilities. Solid waste under this legislation does not include: yard waste, refuse-derived fuel, used oil, wood pallets, clean wood, infectious waste or motor vehicles. The definition of a "solid waste rail transfer facility" means a portion of a facility owned or operated by or on behalf of a rail carrier where solid waste is collected, stored, processed, treated, managed, disposed or transferred when the activity takes place outside of original shipping containers. SWANA is keeping track of this legislation.

Currently in New Mexico there are no facilities that really meet this definition. Northeastern New Mexico Regional Landfill (Wagon Mound) has a rail head at its facility but it is not owned by the rail carrier. I believe this is good legislation and needs to be passed so New Mexico would have jurisdiction over any SWRTF's that might be sited in the future. If passed the NMED would need to amend existing Solid Waste Rules to address the SWRTF's.

Interview with Jay Morrow

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Jay Morrow has returned to the NMSWANA Board and presently serves as Secretary. He is very excited about the potential of NMSWANA and feels that, with a good swift kick in the butt, NMSWANA can be all that it can be for New Mexico. Jay believes NMSWANA should be the leader in solid waste in New Mexico and champion a number of causes that are vitally important for the success of solid waste systems in the state. Through a more assertive and aggressive organization, solid waste in New Mexico can be an important issue again.

When Jay left the Solid Waste Department of Bernalillo County in 2004 he thought he would head off into the sunset. But Jay headed east, not west, and instead of his best days behind him it looks like his best days are still ahead.

And the Winners Are...

SWANA NM Roadrunner 2008 Road-E-O

by Jay Morrow, 2008 Road-E-O Chair

SWANA New Mexico Roadrunner Chapter and the 2008 Road-E-O Committee would like to thank all who participated and worked to make the May 10, 2008 Road-E-O at the Albuquerque Cerro Colorado Landfill and the Sandia Motorsports Park such a success. Thanks, too, that the wind held off until the completion of all events was completed. It was a good day and we had a good turnout on this Mother's Day weekend!

These drivers all work in a dangerous field but they showed us with their excellent driving why we have as few accidents as we do in this important field of handling New Mexico's solid waste and recycling. We have some highly skilled frontline folks that make New Mexico proud! Many of the race-track staff, watching the Road-E-O commented on how amazing it was to watch the different drivers work their trucks through the competitive course.

This was my first time as an organizer and I apologize to the tractor/trailer drivers for our awkward start. However, once we got off and running, the day went well. Thanks again to all!



TRUCK DIVISION



Overall truck winner was Derek Whitten of the City of Albuquerque with an overall score of 380 points (290 course points/90 test points).

Transfer Truck and Trailer

1st - Rodney Valverde
City of Albuquerque

2nd - Milton Spears
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

3rd - Joseph Gutierrez
City of Albuquerque

Side Loaders

1st - Randy Platero
City of Gallup

2nd - David Garcia
City of Gallup

3rd - Raymond Davis
City of Gallup

Roll Off

1st - Derek Whitten
City of Albuquerque

2nd - Milton Spears
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

3rd - David Fertig
City of Gallup

Front Loader

1st - George Wyler
City of Albuquerque

2nd - Joe Garcia
City of Albuquerque

3rd - David Garcia
City of Gallup

LANDFILL DIVISION



Overall Landfill Division winner was David Martinez of the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency with an overall score of 44 points.

Landfill Compactor:

1st - David Martinez
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

2nd - Angelo Mares
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

3rd - Mike Mathias
Waste Management-Rio Rancho

Landfill Dozer:

1st - David Martinez
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

2nd - Antonio Padillo
City of Albuquerque

3rd - Mike Mathias
Waste Management-Rio Rancho

2008 New Mexico Legislative Session

by Phillip Westen

The 2008 session of the New Mexico State Legislature had one recycling bill and two joint memorials introduced at the beginning of January. Both the house and the Senate had a memorial for review and action. At the end of the session the recycling bill and one memorial passed and were signed by the Governor.

Senate Bill 281: Known as the “Sale of Recycled Metals Act” introduced by Senator Phil Griego was designed to help reduce the theft of specific recycled metals for the purpose of selling such material. The Department of Public Safety is to enforce this Act by inspecting records of purchase at recycling and scrap metal yards. The metals targeted for protection are aluminum, copper or brass, and bronze. Each category has further descriptions

of the types of items that will be looked at. The Bill carried a civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation. This bill will affect both the seller and the buyer. The Bill goes into effect on January 1, 2009.

Senate Joint Memorial 11: Introduced by Senator Dede Feldman, this memorial requires the Environment Department to develop guidelines for environmentally preferable electronics procurement and recycling by State agencies. The Secretary of NMED is required to establish a task force from state purchasing, state courts, LFC, from different Universities and colleges, NMRC, SWANA, the computer industry, electronic recyclers, Sandia labs and LANL. The task force will be looking at current purchasing requirements in

New Mexico, and how other states do green purchases and disposal requirements. An inventory of the amount of electronics used by state agencies is to be done between state purchasing and NMED. The task force is to report back to the legislature by December 1, 2008. This bill passed both the House and Senate.

House Joint Memorial 19: Introduced by Representative Joni Marie Gutierrez died in committee. This memorial was to have NMED identify appropriate funding mechanisms to support community efforts to reduce greenhouse gases through recycling. The memorial also required the Economic Development Department to create support strategies and incentives for businesses that process recyclables and make products out of recycled material.

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