

*Truthful
Action*

C.L.O.U.T.

Cherokee Landfill Opposition United Together

This document includes information which opposes a landfill being constructed inside of Cherokee County. The opposition of a landfill inside the county that receives and processes out of county trash is an united, county-wide effort.

C.L.O.U.T.
10.02.08



Everyone should conduct some amount of research on their own. There are several reliable sources available through the internet, books, and many newspapers of towns that have battled Waste Management and other landfills. A good starting point for this type of information is www.stopwmx.org.

The information contained in this document is accurate to the best of our abilities at the current time based on the information that we have obtained.

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NOTE: The source of all information contained in this document will immediately follow the information

Overview of Waste Management's Proposal

Waste Management, Inc. has said that it plans to petition state and local governments for a 1,550 acre landfill site in the Mckowns Mountain community at the Patrick Road and Mckowns Mt. Road intersection. The proposed site is a very short distance away from Duke Power's proposed nuclear energy plant and is in the vicinity of many residents in the area. The facility could take trash from a 75 mile radius around the area and would result in many more large vehicles on the county's roadways. (http://www.gaffneyledger.com/news/2008/0905/front_page/001.html)

Places Within A 75 Mile Radius

Listed are some select places within a 75 mile radius of the proposed site along with their population. **These populations add up to over 4 million people. Should a county of 52,537 keep the trash of 4 million?** (Data was accessed through *Google Earth* and online censuses)

Columbia	124,818	Rowan Co	136,254
Oak Grove	8,183	Cabarrus Co	156,395
Lexington	14,995	Stanley Co	58,100
Saluda	3,139	Concord	55,977
Greenwood	22,383	Charlotte	671,588
Ninety-six	1,918	Mecklenburg Co	827,445
Due West	1,209	Anson Co	25,275
Anderson	26,404	York Co	199,035
Clemson	12,816	Union Co	29,881
Central	3,522	Chesterfield Co	1,318
Liberty	3,051	Lancaster Co	43,200
Easley	17,964	Chester Co	6,476
Pickens Co	111,897	Fairfield Co	23,454
Transylvania Co	29,780	Kershaw Co	1,684
Henderson Co	99,033	Richland Co	348,226
Ashville	73,875	Greenwood Co	29,646
Polk Co	19,226	Abbeville Co	5,735
Greenville Co	395,357	Rutherford Co	62,899
Spartanburg Co	253,791	Burke Co	89,148
Buncombe Co	222,147	Cleveland Co	98,373
Yancey Co	18,421	Gaston Co	199,397
McDowell Co	43,414	Lincoln Co	63,780
Mitchell Co	15,784	Iredell Co	146,206
Avery Co	17,167	Laurens Co	9,916
Caldwell Co	79,122	Newberry Co	10,893
Alexander Co	33,603		
Catawba Co	153,784		

Transfer Stations Within 75 Mile Radius

A transfer station is “a place where residential garbage and commercial wastes are compressed, baled, and loaded on vehicles for moving to disposal sites, as for landfill.”

(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/transfer%20station>)

Therefore, the following transfer stations can collect trash from anywhere and then send it the proposed facility, meaning that trash could, and would, come from much farther than a 75 mile radius. Many times this trash may be from hundreds of miles away that has been transported via train, or other transportation. The following is a list of the transfer stations within the proposed 75 mile radius in SC and is listed as follows: County, Facility Name, Facility ID #.

Anderson Anderson-Oconee TS 042760-6001	York York County SW TS 461001-6001	321001-6001 Newberry Newberry County SW TS 361001-6001
Anderson Pendleton TS 042401-6001	Greenville Blackberry Valley SW TS 231001-6001	Pickens Pickens County TS 391001-6001
Cherokee Cherokee County SW TS 111001-6001	Greenville City of Greenville LCD TS 231002-6001	Spartanburg Broadcast Drive C&D TS 422692-6001
Chester Chester County SW TS 121001-6001	Greenville City of Greer SW TS 231003-6001	Spartanburg City of Spartanburg SW TS 421005-6001
Union City of Union SW Transfer 441003-6001	Lancaster City of Lancaster SW TS 291003-6001	Spartanburg Greer MSW TS 422323-6001
York Container Company of Carolina MSW TS (Fort Mill) 463323-6001	Laurens Laurens County SW TS 302323-6001 Lexington Lexington County MSW TS	Fairfield Fairfield TS 202401-6001

Also, there are 16 others in NC that are inside of the 75 mile radius. A list of those is available upon request.

Image of Proposed Project Area



Likely Routes of Travel Through Cherokee Co.

Will likely travel Hwy 11:

Rutherford Co

Burke Co

Mitchell Co

Avery Co

Yancey Co

Will likely travel 105:

Spartanburg Co

Pacolet

Newberry Co

Union Co

Will likely travel Hwy 5:

York Co

Gaston Co

Charlotte (through Hwy 29)

These are not to mention Mckowns Mt Rd, Victory Trail Rd, Patrick Rd, and Wilkinsville Hwy.

Number Of Vehicles And Their Effects On Cherokee Co.

Waste Management has approximated that 300 trucks would be traveling the region's roads. The following calculations were figured using 400 for the reason of an underestimate and also extra vehicles such as WM employees, etc.

400 vehicles per day

1 day=8 hours

Vehicles in and out (400 x2=800)

800 vehicles/ 8 hours= 100 vehicles per hour

100vph/60min= 1.7 vehicles per minute

Imagine the amount of road damage, litter, and leachate (garbage juice) on county roads.

THE DAMAGE TO OUR ROADS: Garbage trucks can weigh 25 tons (weight of 5 elephants)

THE DAMAGE TO THE AIR (BY GARBAGE TRUCKS ALONE) An average garbage truck travels 25,000 miles annually, gets less than 3 miles per gallon, and uses approximately 8,600 gallons of fuel each year. Over 40% of garbage trucks are over 10 years old, making it the oldest fleet in the US. The average diesel-powered garbage truck costs over \$170,000 and is not retired for 12 years.

Air quality. Over 133 million Americans live in areas that violate federal clean air standards. Vehicle emissions, including those from diesel-powered garbage trucks, are responsible for most of the pollution blanketing US cities.

Scientists have long known that air pollution can sicken or kill sensitive groups of people, including children and the elderly. According to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, people living in the most heavily polluted areas have a 12% higher risk of dying of lung cancer than people in the least polluted areas. That risk increases to 50% for those who are repeatedly and regularly exposed to diesel exhaust, such as the workers who spend long days at the back of or inside garbage trucks. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has identified 41 toxic constituents of diesel exhaust that pose an additional health threat. Air pollution is also responsible for a variety of other health problems, including aggravation of the symptoms of asthma, reduced lung function, and other respiratory problems.

Noise. Diesel garbage trucks are notoriously loud, generating noise that can cause serious hearing damage. Garbage truck operators, as well as those living along garbage truck routes, are affected by these dangerous noise levels.

Energy security. The garbage truck sector alone is responsible for consuming approximately 1 billion gallons of diesel fuel annually, representing nearly 3% of total diesel fuel consumed in the US. And it is the unstable Middle East that provides the US with 30% of its oil imports.

http://www.informinc.org/fact_ggt.php

NOTE: THE PRECEDING INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS, NOT OTHER WAYS OF TRANSPORTATING WASTE, SUCH AS TRANSFER TRUCKS AND RAIL ROAD TRANSPORTATION.

Property Value Loss

A meta-analysis shows that landfills that accept high volumes of waste (500 tons per day or more) decrease adjacent residential property values by 12.9%, on average. This impact diminishes with distance at a gradient of 5.9% per mile.

(<http://74.125.45.104/search?q=cache:uOJbf0n8X4oJ:www.nercrd.psu.edu/publications/rdppaper/s/rdp27.pdf+amount+a+landfill+decreases+property+value&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us>)

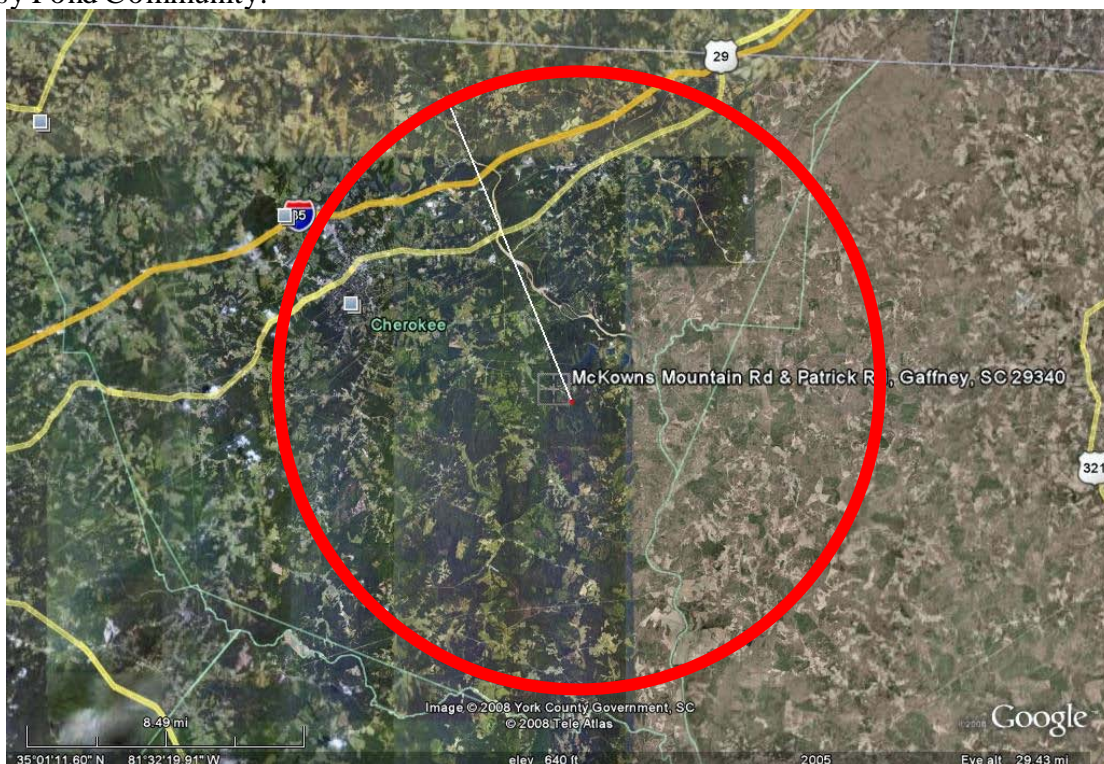
A house is valued at \$200,000.

Adjacent to the landfill= \$26,000 loss

1 Mile Away= \$24,277.80 loss

10 Miles Away= \$10,578 loss

A 10 mile radius reaches well out of Mckowns Mt. area, going across I-85 and Hwy 150 into the Grassy Pond Community.



This is an approximate 10 mile radius around the proposed site.

The Lack Of Need For A Landfill In Cherokee Co.

For the past several years, Cherokee County has transferred household trash through a transfer station. This method has been successful. Regional Services, Inc. is located in Union County and operates the Upstate Regional Landfill and would be more than happy to take care of Cherokee County's trash. The landfill still has many years (more than 20) of operation left.

The Jobs That Claim To Be Created

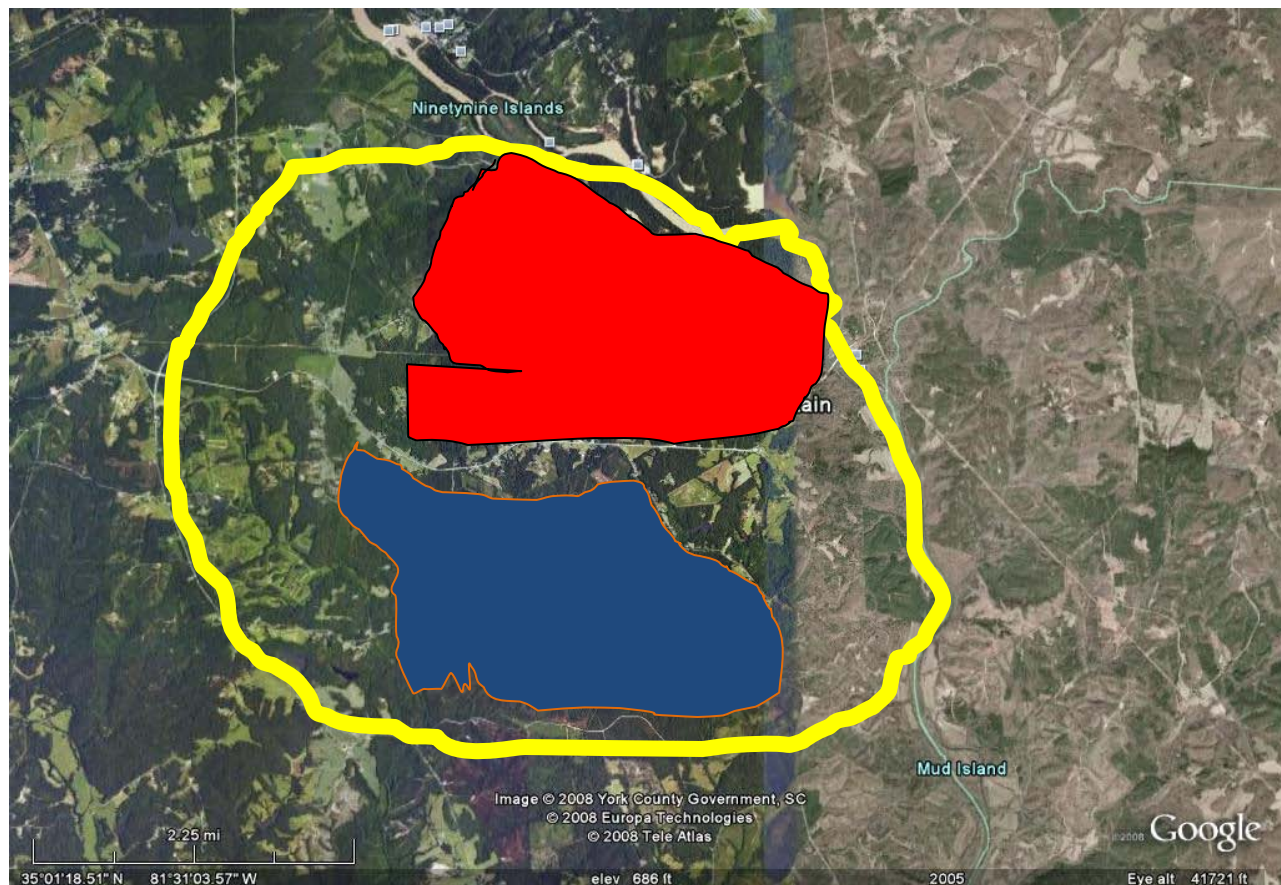
Waste Management claims that when the facility reaches full and normal operation, it *could* employ *up to* 42 jobs. These jobs would range from low skill to high skill, and the pay would correspond accordingly. With the closing of the Palmetto Landfill in Wellford, SC, their employees would be transferred to the proposed Gaffney facility. This includes secretaries up to high level truck driver/operators and administration. Therefore, in all actuality, very few (if any) jobs would be created that would have the potential to employ Cherokee County citizens.

(The preceding information derived from several interviews with different WM employees and executives at different times.)

Miscellaneous Images

The following are images from *Google Earth* with a description of the image depicted to follow.

Areas outlined are only approximations.



The area outlined in **yellow** is the Mckowns Mt community. The area in **red** is the property owned by Duke Power. The area in **blue** is the proposed are for the landfill. The vast majority of the Mckowns Mt community will be gone.



This is an image of the Town of Blacksburg. Blacksburg is 1,020 acres, where as the proposed property by Waste Management is 1,550 acres (1.5 times the size of Blacksburg!)



This is an image of Cherokee National Golf Course. The golf course is approximately 350-375 acres. The three actual piles of trash will be 500 acres.

Landfill Liners

One major concern with all landfills still holds true today. That is the issue of contamination. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted a lot of extensive research on this very subject. Ground contamination is clearly evident, and even more alarming, so is ground water contamination. This is a major concern for residents near the landfill, seeing as many still rely on “well water” as their main source of household water and/or drinking water. “Well water” is simply ground water that is pumped out of a well into the residence. The following are some excerpts from an article on the EPA’s study of landfill contamination (located at

http://www.bekkoa.me.ne.jp/~mineki/shobun_e.htm):

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] funded research which showed that burying household garbage in the ground poisons the groundwater. On several occasions, EPA spelled out in detail the reasons why all landfills leak.

EPA's 1991 regulations require an expensive landfill design: two liners in the ground and an impervious plastic cover over the landfill after it has been filled with garbage. This is "state of the art" technology, the very best that modern engineers can build. However, EPA officials still expect such landfills to fail and eventually poison groundwater.

A 1990 examination of the best available landfill liners concluded that brand-new state-of-the-art liners of high density polyethylene (HDPE) can be expected to leak at the rate of about 20 gallons per acre per day (200 liters per hectare per day) even if they are installed with the very best and most expensive quality-control procedures.[2] This rate of leakage is caused by pinholes during manufacture, and by holes created when the seams are welded together during landfill construction. (Landfill liners are rolled out like huge carpets and then are welded together, side by side, to create a continuous field of plastic.) Now examination of actual landfill liners reveals that even the best seams contain some holes.

It is reasonable from available research and history to conclude that all landfills, no matter the technology, methods, or practices used, will contaminate the environment and ground water.

On several occasions, Waste Management has faced penalties and fines for not properly taking steps to reduce contamination. (<http://stopwmx.org/wmcom.html>)

Conclusion

The key to the success or failure of the proposed Waste Management project lies in the hands of Cherokee County's councilmen. Thankfully these men have placed the procedure of their approval in order for the landfill to locate inside of Cherokee County. These men are representatives of their respective districts. Therefore, as representatives and decision makers, these men value the voice of the citizens of Cherokee County. They appreciate the concern of citizens and respectable, well educated opposition to the landfill.

District 1	Rufus H. Foster	(864) 489-4216
District 2	H. Bailey Humphries	(864) 487-0216
District 3	J. Quay Little	(864) 487-7681
District 4	Timothy F. Spence	(864) 487-7015
District 5	Charles T. Mathis	(864) 489-9960
District 6	L. Hoke Parris	(864) 489-4616
District 7	James D. Batchelor	(864) 839-6229

For more information please visit www.groups.yahoo.com/group/clout2008/

ACTION and TRUTH

Actively spread the truth about the proposed landfill in a respectful and well educated manner.