

Gude Landfill Capping Update

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection has met its first milestone in the Gude Landfill capping project. In November, County officials met with the Maryland State Department of the Environment and submitted its 30% complete design plan for the landfill's remediation.

In general, the design plan envisions a cap being installed across the entirety of the landfill, following the existing tree line and top of steep slopes around the north, east, and south sides of the landfill. Trees will be removed along the northwest boundary (near our community) so the slope can be re-graded and capped. The design phase will continue through spring 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2020 and will proceed in 6 phases through September, 2023. The project is planned to be fully completed in February, 2024.

The design plan calls for significant relocation of waste and regrading of the slope along the northwestern border of the landfill (along the border with Derwood Station). The work would involve the removal of trees along the northwest boundary, regrading of the landfill's northwest slope to create a stepped or tiered border, relocation of the access road and development of a perimeter swale.

As part of the design, the County is planning on developing an 'operational area' to use approximately 8 acres of the landfill for its commercial yard waste operations. These operations would be located on the eastern side of the landfill, and expand upon existing yard waste operations. The area would be accessed by trucks via Incinerator Lane.

The construction, re-grading and capping of the landfill will involve exposing buried waste, relocating and re-burying it, capping with synthetic barriers and soil, and making some changes to the existing slope and contour of the landfill. The work will involve heavy equipment, and is likely to generate noise, odors, and dust.

The County continues to express a willingness to re-use the landfill for the benefit of the Derwood community, and employ passive elements such as bike/walking paths, dog park, or community garden. The re-use plans have yet to be developed.

Community Input Sought

The County has sought input from the Derwood Station community regarding its preference for staging the construction work. While detailed options and schedules are being refined, a basic issue presented is whether the community would prefer (1) a 12-18 month 'full press' to complete work along the northwest boundary near the community (risking a need to conduct operations during the summer months when odors may be more noticeable) or (2) conducting the work along the northwest boundary over a 2-3 year period in multiple phases that restricted operations to the winter months (when odors may be less noticeable).

If you have views on the approach to construction, please attend a monthly meeting between GLCC and the County, or contact your Board HOA President. Other recent developments include:

☐ A Traffic Impact Study has been concluded and is to be submitted December 20, 2018. ☐ Initial work on an aerial survey has been completed. ☐ Utilities have been identified and located. ☐ Geotechnical investigations have proceeded, including drilling of test borings to sample depth of soil and waste. ☐ A review of the current landfill gas removal system was completed, revealing that all current well-heads (used to pump methane from the landfill) will need to be replaced during construction. ☐ Through an arrangement with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, soil from the Purple Line project continues to be delivered and stockpiled at the Gude Landfill for the use during the future landfill capping construction. The delivery of soil occurs primarily Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Background

The County is working to comply with a May 2013 consent order issued by the Maryland State Department of the Environment that requires the County to remediate the migration of groundwater contamination and temporary explosive gas exceedances from landfill gas at and beyond the Gude Landfill property.

The Gude Landfill Concerned Citizens Committee (GLCC) is comprised of your neighbors. Each of the three Derwood Station area HOA presidents is a member of the GLCC. GLCC has met with County and State officials on a regular basis and seeks to ensure that there is timely and comprehensive communication to the Derwood community.

Interested community members are encouraged to attend regularly conducted meetings between GLCC and the County. These are generally held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 P.M. at the County's Waste Transfer Station.

To obtain the schedule of planned meetings, attend public meetings, or have questions answered, please contact: Don Birnesser, Montgomery County Dept. of Env. Protection (DEP), Division of Solid Waste Services 16101 Frederick Rd. Derwood, MD 20855 e-mail: Donald.Birnesser@montgomerycountymd.gov

Additional information about the Gude Landfill can be found at the County's website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/facilities/gude/> Feel free to contact GLCC Chairman, Keith Ligon at keligon56@gmail.com or (301) 742-9634.