



# ***Facts About...***

**Tolson & Associates Rubble Landfill - *Questions & Answers***

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## **What is a rubble landfill?**

A rubble landfill is a landfill that accepts construction and demolition wastes consisting of structural steel, cement, concrete, bricks (excluding refractory brick), lumber, plaster, plasterboard, insulation material, shingles and roofing material, floor and wall tile, asphalt, pipes and wires, and other structural fabrics.

## **Where is the Tolson & Associates Landfill located?**

The landfill will be located at the end of Capitol Raceway Road off of MD Route 301 in Crofton, Maryland. The site property is currently occupied by a sand and gravel operation and the previously closed Cunningham Rubble Landfill.

## **Is this the same landfill as the existing Cunningham Landfill?**

No, this will be a new landfill with a separate footprint, but located adjacent to the closed Cunningham Landfill. The proposed Tolson & Associates Landfill does have the same footprint as the proposed expansion of the Cunningham Landfill, which was denied by MDE in 1995.

## **Where can I read the proposed permit application and plans?**

The application documents and draft permit have been placed in the Anne Arundel Public Library located at 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113.

The application, supporting plans and draft permit are also available for review at the MDE office in Baltimore, and the draft permit has been posted on the MDE website at [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us). To review the application documents at MDE, please contact Ms. Maria Stephens at 410-537-3422.

## **What are the days and hours of operation of the Tolson & Associates Landfill?**

The proposed hours of operation will be 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The landfill will be closed on Sunday, and legal holidays, and would operate on Saturdays only after subsequent approval by MDE.

## **How big is the proposed rubble fill area?**

The fill area will be 72.38 acres located on a 184.25-acre site.

## **How will groundwater be protected?**

The landfill will have a liner system that is designed to prevent the release of leachate into the groundwater. Leachate is rainwater that percolates through the waste and is collected from the bottom of the landfill and removed for further processing. The liner system will consist of two feet of low permeable soil having a permeability of less than or equal to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  centimeters/second, overlain by a 60-mil thick high density polyethylene geomembrane.

**How will leachate be managed?**

Landfill leachate often contains pollutants that have been dissolved out of the waste as rainwater percolates through the landfill. The leachate will be collected at the bottom of the landfill in a sump and pumped to a wet well and then to two, double-walled 50,000-gallon aboveground storage tanks. From there, the leachate will be transported by truck to a permitted wastewater treatment plant.

**Will groundwater be monitored on the site?**

The groundwater on a portion of the site occupied by the closed Cunningham Landfill has already been monitored for approximately 15 years. Under the monitoring plan for the Tolson & Associates Landfill, 29 wells will be sampled for a variety of volatile organic compounds, metals and other water quality parameters, with a report detailing the sampling results submitted to MDE semiannually for review. This frequency is the standard monitoring frequency established by MDE for all municipal, rubble, and industrial landfills in the State.

**What will prevent pollutants from the landfill from contaminating Little Patuxent River?**

The application complies with the Code of Maryland Regulations that requires a liner, leachate collection, and monitoring system for rubble landfills. The liner and leachate collection system will be comprised of 2 feet of soil having  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  centimeter/second permeability, a 60-mil geomembrane liner, non-woven geotextile, 2 feet of drainage material consisting of native sand/gravel and geotextile. The 60-mil geomembrane liner has been widely used in hazardous waste, municipal and industrial landfills, and is an industry standard. The leachate, which is rainwater that percolates through the waste, will be collected from the bottom of the landfill and pumped to two, double-walled 50,000-gallon aboveground storage tanks. No leachate will be sent to storm water ditches or to the Little Patuxent River.

**How will storm water be managed?**

A minimum of 6 inches of soil cover or an alternative material approved by MDE will be placed on top of the waste at the end of each third day's operation. A minimum of one foot of intermediate soil cover will be placed on top of each 8-foot lift of waste and on the side slopes. An additional two-foot layer of soil will be placed over the entire landfill once it has reached capacity and prior to capping of the landfill. The top of completed waste lifts will be graded and sloped to prevent the ponding of precipitation on the cover layer, and to direct clean run-off to the outside of the perimeter berm surrounding the landfill. Stormwater run-off will discharge in sheet flow over the side of the perimeter berm, be intercepted by a perimeter stormwater drainage channel, and flow to the sediment basin/stormwater management pond or sediment traps. Any precipitation that contacts exposed waste is considered to be leachate and will be directed to infiltrate into the waste and be collected by the leachate collection system.

**Are there any wetlands being impacted due to this landfill activity?**

There was a site inspection performed by MDE's Nontidal Wetland and Waterways Division on April 24, 2008. Based on their inspection, it was determined that no regulated areas exist on the subject site including nontidal wetlands, their regulated buffers, stream channels and their 100-year floodplains.

**Will there be increased truck traffic on Rte. 3/Rte. 301?**

The primary traffic route for trucks associated with landfill activities is anticipated to use Rte. 3 and Capitol Raceway Road, with lesser dependencies on Rtes. 424 and 450, and other local roadways. The Tolson &

Associates Landfill would add approximately 100 heavy trucks per day and 20 light trucks from Monday to Friday during daytime non-peak hours. This addition is estimated to increase the Rte. 3 current loading by 28.4 vehicles per hour on weekdays, with a 1.5 adjustment factor for heavy vehicles. This is 0.7 percent increase over the existing conditions and is not expected to significantly affect the stability of Rte. 3 and connecting arterials.

**How high will the Tolson & Associates Landfill be?**

The landfill is designed to have a final maximum elevation of 230 feet above mean sea level along the southeastern corner, which is 30 feet above the existing surrounding topography.

**How will dust be managed at the landfill?**

Fugitive dust at the landfill will be controlled by watering the access road and other landfill areas as needed via a water truck. Additional dust control measures will include the vegetative stabilization of soil stockpiles and intermediate and final cover areas.

**How will noise be managed at the landfill?**

Code of Maryland Regulations 26.02.03.03A(2) requires that sound level be less than 90 dBA during daytime hours (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and less than 75 dBA during nighttime hours (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) at the site boundary. According to Caterpillar, Inc., the medium-sized construction equipment that will likely be used at the landfill emit a sound level of ~ 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet from the source. Based upon Caterpillar experience, when the distance is doubled to 100 feet, the sound level is reduced to ~ 79 dBA.

The landfill fill area will be located no less than 150 feet from the site boundary in all areas. Therefore, the sound level at the site boundary is expected to be less than the regulatory level (90 dBA) under normal landfill operating conditions. Since the landfill will not be operated between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., noise levels should not exceed the regulatory limit (75 dBA) during nighttime hours.

**What will be the lifespan of the landfill?**

This will depend on how fast Tolson & Associates chooses to fill the site. In general, the lifespan is calculated using the available volume, density of the waste, and acceptance rate. The total volume of the landfill is estimated to be 5.7 million cubic yards. The acceptance rate is estimated to be 306,000 cubic yards per year. Hence, the estimated lifespan for the landfill is approximately 18.83 years at that rate of acceptance.

**Who will monitor the landfill once it closes?**

Under Code of Maryland Regulation 26.04.07.22, once the landfill closes, the owner is responsible to monitor the landfill for a minimum period of 5 years after the complete installation of the landfill cap. This time period can be, and frequently is, extended by MDE if significant maintenance situations occur at the landfill during the 5-year period after closure. Post-closure care will consist of the monitoring and maintenance of the surface water management system, landfill gas and leachate management systems, groundwater monitoring systems, and integrity and effectiveness of the final cover system.

*Questions concerning this matter can be referred to the Solid Waste Program, Solid Waste Operations Division at (410) 537-3315.*