

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Waste Programs Division
Solid Waste Fees
December 8, 2010

Solid Waste Program

The Solid Waste Fee Fund (SWFF), created in 1985, is funded by minimal fees assessed to some solid waste facility owners and operators. The current fee structure is insufficient to support the needs of the Solid Waste Program. In the past, ADEQ utilized General Fund monies to address the significant gap between fee revenue and program cost. General Fund monies, however, are no longer available to cover program costs.

In FY2010, the SWFF generated approximately \$607,000. The fees need to increase by approximately \$1.7 million dollars to make the Solid Waste Program self-sufficient.

Below is a description of the proposed fee increases and new fees.

Fee Name	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Special Waste Management Fee A.R.S. §§ 49-855(C); 49-863	\$2/ton maximum of \$20,000 year/generator	\$4/ton maximum of \$40,000 year/generator
Landfill Registration Fee A.R.S. § 49-747(C)1-8	\$500 - \$5,000	\$1,000 - \$10,000
SW Facility Plan Review Hourly Rate A.R.S. § 49-762.03(F)	\$58.81/hour	\$127/hour
Septage Hauler License A.R.S. § 49-104(B)(14)(b)	None	\$250/vehicle
Biohazardous Medical Waste Transporter License A.R.S. § 49-761(D)	None	\$127/hour
Waste Tire Collection Site Approval (>500 tires) A.R.S. § 49-762	None	\$500/year
Waste Tire Collection Site Approval (100-500 tires) A.R.S. § 44-1304.01(A)(8)	None	\$250/year

Because the proposed solid waste fee increases generate only approximately \$600,000 of the \$1.7 million needed in increased fees, ADEQ is seeking to transfer \$1,179,000 from and permanently amend the Recycling Fund to support solid waste program activities.

The proposed fee increases will allow ADEQ to secure funding for 11 core program positions (inspections and permitting) and 5.75 support positions (records management, budget and database support staff).

The Solid Waste Program regulates a universe of over 450 facilities and approximately 1,500 activities in Arizona

- Regulated solid waste facilities include:
 - 75 open solid waste landfills
 - 6 biohazardous medical waste transfer, storage, treatment and/or disposal facilities
 - 151 solid waste transfer stations
 - 71 waste tire collection facilities
 - 50 used oil marketers, processors and burners
 - 104 special waste generators, treatment and/or disposal facilities
- Regulated solid waste activities include:
 - 1,160 septic haulers
 - 79 used oil transporters
 - 7 registered alternative medical waste treatment technologies
 - 39 registered biohazardous medical waste transporters
 - 76 special waste transporters
 - 159 DIY used oil collection centers

In addition, the Solid Waste Program investigates and responds to approximately 200 complaints each year.

Impact of not funding:

Improper handling of solid waste can result in the spread of West Nile Virus, waste tire fires, burning of used oil contaminated with hazardous waste, and hazardous waste making its way into groundwater, among other potential human and environmental health hazards. Hazardous waste in conditionally exempt small quantities is predominantly managed by generators as solid waste; small quantities of these wastes aggregate at landfills.

Failure to regulate biohazardous medical waste handlers puts human health at risk because untreated or inadequately treated biohazardous medical waste, such as contaminated needles, could enter the general solid waste stream. Without oversight, solid waste facilities may fail to implement waste screening programs to exclude unpermitted wastes, such as biohazardous medical waste, hazardous wastes, and other dangerous substances being sent to transfer stations in urban areas and solid waste landfills. The Solid Waste Inspections and Compliance program has already seen an increase in the rate of non-compliance at some solid waste landfills, a likely result of less frequent inspections caused by decreases in ADEQ staffing levels. In Arizona, seven Superfund/WQARF sites are solid waste landfills.