

## ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### AGENDA

BOCC Transfer Station Siting Work Session

February 11, 2008

**Meeting – 7:45 p.m. (or immediately upon adjournment of the  
7:30 p.m. Reconvened Regular Meeting)**

Southern Human Services Center

Chapel Hill, NC

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the meeting will be to present a resolution, drafted by County management, for adoption stating the Board's desire to ensure a fair, open, and fundamentally sound siting process and to emphasize the Board's commitment to public participation throughout. A revised transfer station siting process flow schematic and schedule reflecting public meetings as currently established by the BOCC will also be presented for adoption.

In addition information regarding the selection of exclusionary criteria, technical criteria and proposed public participation elements will be presented for discussion, feedback, direction and public comment.

#### **AGENDA (ORDER OF BUSINESS):**

- 1) Recommend Adoption of Public Participation Resolution (Exhibit 1)
- 2) Recommend Adoption of Transfer Station Siting Process Flow Schematic and Schedule (Exhibits 2 and 3)
- 3) Discussion, Feedback, and Direction on Public Participation Program (Reference - Exhibit 2)
- 4) Discussion, Feedback, and Direction on Exclusionary Criteria (Exhibit 4 – Resources - Exhibits 5 and 6)
- 5) Discussion, Feedback, and Direction on Technical Criteria (Exhibit 7)
- 6) Public Comment Period (15 Minutes)
- 7) Further Comment, Direction, and Feedback as desired by the Board to Olver, Inc and/or County Management

#### **ATTACHMENTS FOR RESOURCE/REFERENCE:**

Exhibit 1 – Orange County Transfer Station Siting Process Resolution: Commitment to Public Participation

Exhibit 2 – Revised Transfer Station Siting - Process Flow Schematic

Exhibit 3 – Revised Transfer Station Siting Schedule

Exhibit 4 – Preliminary Exclusionary Siting Criteria

Exhibit 5 – Orange County Watershed Map

Exhibit 6 – Major Transportation Arterials

Exhibit 7 – Technical Siting Criteria

**Orange County Transfer Station Siting Process Resolution  
Commitment to Public Participation**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners authorized County management to begin planning a solid waste transfer station for the Eubanks Road site in March 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Board agreed in November 2007 to activate a thorough process for identifying and evaluating sites for locating a solid waste transfer station; and

WHEREAS, the services of Olver, Inc., an independent engineering consulting firm, were engaged in December 2007 to guide and assist the Board serving as a "committee of the whole" through the technical phases of a search process – from defining site criteria to the ranking of candidate sites – leading ultimately to a site selection; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware of, and appreciates, the sense of urgency and magnitude of effort required by this undertaking given that the existing landfill is projected to be at capacity by 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to conducting a process that provides for a high level of public information and abundant opportunity for meaningful public participation throughout; and

WHEREAS, the Board charged Olver, Inc. -- with advice and assistance from County management -- to propose a schedule of special, public meetings that include aggressive timelines for deliberations and decision-making on siting criteria and site options, along with outreach and notification, information/feedback sessions, and special presentations within and among impacted neighborhoods and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the Board on February 5, 2008 amended its regular meeting schedule to incorporate additional dates consistent with the philosophy of public education and engagement, and provided that such meetings be televised;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners has set forth these actions and this statement as strong indicators of the Board's desire to ensure a fair, open, and fundamentally sound siting process for a transfer station;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board invites and encourages local media, municipalities, civic organizations, and residents from everywhere in Orange County to engage and participate fully in this siting process, as all are stewards of the environment, physical and political, of Orange County;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will reserve for public comment the last fifteen (15) minutes of each session that is part of the Board's schedule of meetings committed to identifying and evaluating alternative sites for locating a solid waste transfer station. This Resolution takes effect immediately.

Upon motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing resolution was adopted this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

I, Donna S. Baker, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Orange, North Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of so much of the proceedings of said Board at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ as relates in any way to the adoption of the foregoing and that said proceedings are recorded in the Minute Book of the Board.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

# MEETING TIMELINE

1/16	1/29	2/11	2/19	3/18		4/15	5/20	6/24	(6/30) TBD		9/16	(10/7) TBD		(11/18) TBD
Introduction Meeting	Information: ▪ Process ▪ Schedule ▪ Exclusionary Criteria	Decision: ▪ Resolutions ▪ Siting Process  Information: ▪ Exclusionary Criteria ▪ Public Participation ▪ Technical Criteria	Public Comment: ▪ Exclusionary Criteria  Information: ▪ Technical Criteria ▪ Community Specific Criteria ▪ Public Meeting Dates	Information: ▪ Technical Criteria & Weighting Factors ▪ Community Specific Criteria & Weighting Factors  Decision: ▪ Exclusionary Criteria	Public Comment Meetings	Information: ▪ Technical Criteria & Weighting Factors ▪ Community Specific Criteria & Weighting Factors	Decision: ▪ Technical Criteria & Weighting Factors ▪ Community Specific Criteria & Weighting Factors  Information: ▪ Potential Sites	Information: ▪ Candidate Site Selection ▪ Public Meeting Dates	Decision: ▪ Final Candidate Sites	Public Comment Meetings	Information: ▪ Evaluation of Candidate Sites ▪ Public Meeting Dates	Information: ▪ Preliminary Ranking of Candidate Sites	Public Comment Meeting	Information: ▪ Final Ranking of Candidate Sites  Decision: ▪ Final Site Selection
	PUBLIC INPUT	PUBLIC INPUT		PUBLIC INPUT		PUBLIC INPUT	PUBLIC INPUT	PUBLIC INPUT	PUBLIC INPUT		PUBLIC INPUT	PUBLIC INPUT		PUBLIC INPUT

# FLOW SCHEMATIC

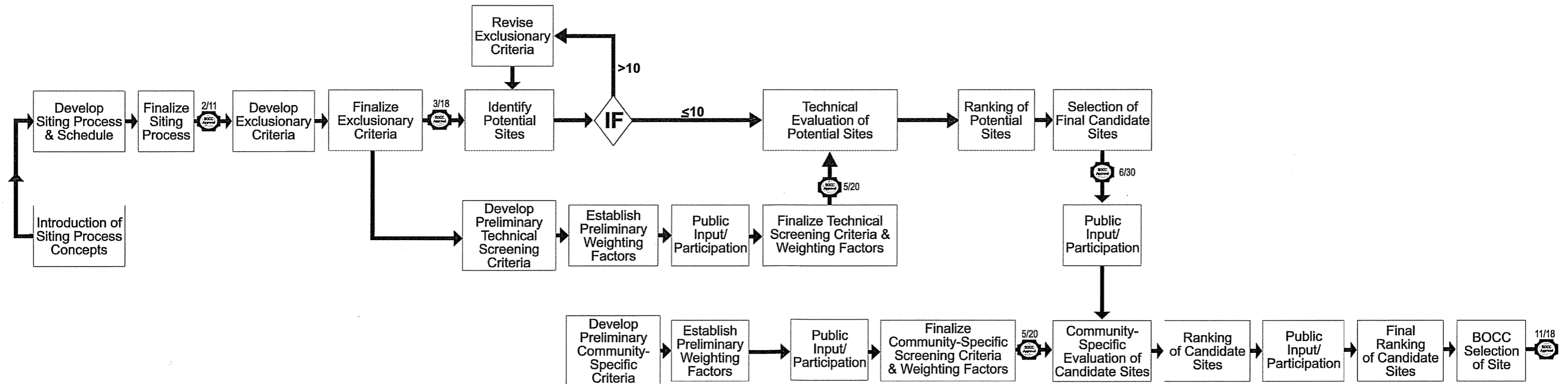


Exhibit 2  
Transfer Station Siting Process - Flow Schematic & Timeline  
02/11/2008 Revision



## EXHIBIT 4

### PRELIMINARY EXCLUSIONARY SITING CRITERIA

- Wetlands and floodplains.
- Endangered and protected flora and fauna habitats.
- Protected sites of historical, archeological, or cultural significance.
- Parks and preserves.
- Sites must be greater than 25 acres.
- Site must be located within County jurisdiction.
- Site must be located within 3 miles of a major transportation arterial (i.e., US 15-501, NC 54, NC 86, US 70, NC 57, I-40, or I-85).

## EXHIBIT 7

### TECHNICAL SITING CRITERIA<sup>1</sup>

The second category of criteria to develop includes technical parameters that help define the best potential facility sites. These criteria provide guidance on specific engineering, operation, and transportation conditions that should be considered to ensure that potential sites are feasible from technical, environmental, and economic perspectives. These criteria address the following issues:

- **Central location to collection routes** — To maximize waste collection efficiency, transfer stations should be located centrally to waste collection routes. As a rule of thumb in urban and suburban areas, transfer stations should be no more than 10 miles away from the end of all collection routes. Beyond that distance, collection routes might need to be altered to enable refuse to be collected and deposited at the transfer station within one operating shift.
- **Access to major transportation routes** — The transfer station should have direct and convenient access to truck routes, major arterials, and highways (or rail or barge access, if appropriate). For large metropolitan areas, direct access to rail lines or barges will significantly reduce the number of large transfer trailers leaving the station and traveling area roads. It is preferable to avoid routing traffic through residential areas because traffic generated by transfer stations contributes to congestion; increased risk to pedestrians; increased air emissions, noise, and wear on roads; and might contribute to litter problems.
- **Site size requirements** — The area required for specific transfer stations varies significantly, depending on the volume of waste to be transferred, rates at which waste will be delivered, the functions to be carried out at the site, and the types of customers the facility is intended to serve. Locating a site of sufficient size is critical to operating efficiencies and minimizing impacts on the surrounding community. Engineering input can establish preliminary size criteria based on a conceptual design.
- **Sufficient space for on-site roadways, queuing, and parking** — Transfer stations typically have on-site roadways to move vehicles around various parts of the transfer site. Waste collection trucks can be up to 40 feet long. Transfer trailers that move waste to a disposal facility are typically 50 to 70 feet long. These vehicles need wide roadways with gradual slopes and curves to maneuver efficiently and safely. Also, the site will need space for parking transfer vehicles and to allow incoming and outgoing traffic to form lines without backing up onto public roads.
- **Truck and traffic compatibility** — Transfer stations often receive surges of traffic when collection vehicles have finished their routes. Transfer station traffic varies locally but tends to peak twice a day. The first peak is often near the middle of the day or shift, and the second at the end of the day or shift. Therefore, the best sites for transfer stations are located away from areas that have midday traffic peaks and/or school bus and pedestrian traffic.

<sup>1</sup> Waste Transfer Station: A Manual for Decision-Making, EPA.

- **Ability for expansion** — When selecting a site, consider the potential for subsequent increase in the daily tonnage of waste that the facility will be required to manage, or added processing capabilities for recycling and diversion. It is frequently less expensive to expand an existing transfer station than to develop a new site due to the ability to use existing operations staff, utility connection, traffic control systems, office space, and buildings.
- **Space for recycling, composting, and public education** — A transfer station could be sited in areas also conducive to recycling or composting activities. Many transfer stations are designed to enable residents and businesses to drop off recyclables and yard waste in addition to trash. Some transfer stations incorporate education centers or interpretive trails focusing on waste prevention. These types of facilities offer increased utility to the community.
- **Buffer space** — To mitigate impact on the surrounding community, a transfer station should be located in an area that provides separation from sensitive adjoining land uses as residences. Buffers can be natural or constructed and can take many forms, including open spaces, fences, sound walls, trees, berms, and landscaping.
- **Gently sloping topography** — Transfer stations often are multilevel buildings that need to have vehicle access at several levels. Completely flat sites need ramps or bridges constructed to allow vehicle access to upper levels (or areas excavated to allow access to lower levels). Sites with moderately sloping terrain can use topography to their advantage, allowing access to the upper levels from the higher parts of the natural terrain and access to lower levels from the lower parts. Sites with steep slopes might require extra costs associated with earthmoving and retaining walls.
- **Access to utilities** — Transfer stations generally require electricity to operate equipment, such as balers and compactors; lighting; water for facility cleaning, restrooms, and drinking; and sanitary sewer systems for wastewater disposal. Some smaller transfer stations use wells for water supply, and some, especially in more rural settings, use septic systems or truck their wastewater for off-site treatment.
- **Zoning designations and requirements** — Zoning ordinances frequently classify transfer stations as industrial uses, which limits their siting to areas zoned for industry usually in conjunction with a special use permit. Exclusive use of predetermined land use criteria, however, might result in locating transfer stations in areas already overburdened with industries or clustering of these types of facilities in areas adjacent to poor and minority communities. If local zoning ordinances are so restrictive that they disallow facility siting outside pre-established industrial zones, substantial engineering and architectural design must be incorporated into the facility to minimize impacts on the surrounding community.
- **Carbon footprint** — Carbon emissions output of waste hauling and transfer operations referenced to the centroid of waste generation.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Criteria Modified for Orange County, North Carolina.