

Analysis for the Disposal of Carcasses in Sanitary Landfills

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Since the onset of Mad Cow (BSE) disease in the Pacific Northwest and the treatment of CWD deer in Wisconsin, Waste Management has formed a Carcass Disposal Policy Committee to develop policy, procedures and disposal options. Initially, the Committee focused on educating the staff on the historical treatment and disposal methods utilized in Europe and Asia. As the analysis matured, WM focused on the fate and transport of prions in the landfill including transport into leachate. The Committee eventually hired a risk assessment expert to evaluate numerous scenarios including environmental and occupational health risks. These scenarios provided WM with enough data to develop a process and policy to accept prion-contaminated wastes.

In 2004, Avian Flu and chicken disposal were added to the Committee's task list. A Standard Operating Procedure was developed for transportation and disposal of mass quantities of potentially contaminated birds, bedding and feedstock.

Ultimately the committee has developed a guidance that separates high-risk items and / or site sensitive materials from normal operations. The guidance details the following;

- Acceptance and rejection of infected animals.
- Procedure for acceptance for animals and bedding that are exposed.
- Risk to employees and our neighbors.