

DAA Alert...on Solid Waste Issues



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Legislative Update

Permit Fees To Increase

Although the Senate disapproved the Governor's amendments to SB 592 last week (the \$5 surcharge), the provisions of the bill, and those of HB 1257, allow the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to triple permit application fees. Thus, the DEQ has submitted to the Attorney General's office an emergency regulation to cover the fees, to become effective on July 1, 2002. The emergency regulation will be effective for a period of one year, during which time the DEQ will evaluate permanent methods of assessing permit fees. A variety of options will be considered, not all of them related to permit applications. It is possible that some of the fees would change again.

As of July 1st, permit application fees for new facilities will be the following:

- All Landfills:
 - Part A Application:..... \$9,600
 - Part B Application: \$42,900
- Incineration / Energy Recovery Facility: \$13,500
- Transfer Station, Materials Recovery Facility:..... \$9,900
- Compost Facility:
 - Part A Application:..... \$4,800
 - Part B Application: \$24,300

Permit Amendments or Modifications to Existing Facilities:

(to numerous to list here, please contact us for specific fees)

Obviously, one way to avoid the budgetary impact of the increased fees is to submit any application you are planning to the DEQ prior to July 1st.

Bottle Bill Proposed

Sen. Jim Jeffords, an independent from Vermont, joined with environmentalists on Earth Day to unveil legislation holding the beverage industry responsible for increasing bottle and can recycling.

Under Jeffords' proposal, soft drink, beer and other beverage companies would be required to develop plans for a 10-cent refundable deposit on beverage containers with a goal of achieving an 80 percent national recycling rate. The beverage companies would have to submit their plans to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

More than 114 billion beverage containers were thrown away rather than recycled in 1999. That figure represents a 50 percent increase in bottle and can waste since 1992, according to the Container Recycling Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Arlington.

For more information on these issues, please contact Jeff Crate, jcrate@daa.com, or (540) 552-0444 / (804) 264-2228.

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