

Zero Waste Testimony

10-Year Solid Waste Mgt Plan 2024-2035

I oppose the plan because the pollution created by trucking or rail-hauling waste to landfills is only a tiny fraction of that created by incinerating waste.

Specifically, Section 5.3.6 needs to state this: Trucking waste hundreds of miles will not make landfilling more polluting than incineration (pollution is determined by type of transport and the type of landfill). Incineration at Dickerson is twice as polluting as trucking or rail-hauling our trash to a landfill hundreds of miles away.

Private landfills with good methane gas capture available to the county in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia emit approximately 1000 lbs of CO₂ per ton of waste disposed of, and this **includes** the emissions from trucking or rail transport. Our incinerator in Dickerson emits over 2000 lbs of CO₂ equivalent per ton of waste disposed. In addition, Dickerson emits hundreds of thousands of tons of other pollutants annually such as nitrogen oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide lead, mercury and chromium.

Lastly, I am greatly disturbed by the lack of communication to stakeholders about this process. It is as if the Dept of Environmental Protection deliberately withheld information from the public and advisory groups (e.g. that county council member has to introduce a resolution to deny the contract extension and then hold a public hearing). While the website clearly stated the need for a public hearing, there was no mention of the need for a resolution. This blacking out of critical information is not transparent and undermines my confidence in our democratic process. It is not acceptable.

Thank you