
Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act 2005



MPA ESP Workshop Final Briefing

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Agenda

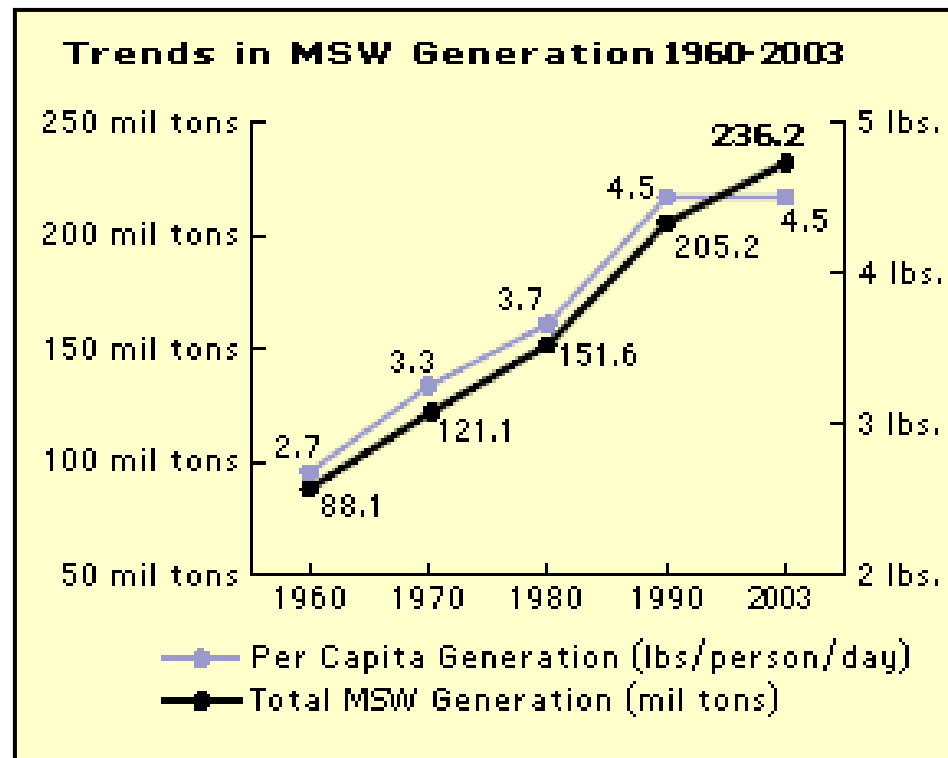


- **Problem Overview**
 - **Legislation Summary**
 - **Solutions Proposed**
 - Options & Alternatives
 - Limitations
 - **Effectiveness of Solutions**
 - **Summary**
-

Problem Overview

Why is Municipal Solid Waste a problem?

- Increased generation of MSW
- Geographic distribution of landfills



Problem Overview



How are we dealing with the increase in Municipal Solid Waste?

1993: 14.5 million tons of MSW crossed state lines

2003: 39 million tons of MSW crossed state lines

2003: Pennsylvania accepted waste from 28 states, plus D.C., Puerto Rico and Canada. 94% of these imports were from New Jersey and New York.



SOURCES: New York City Transportation Department; Congressional Research Service AP

Problem Overview

Environmental & Health Concerns



- **Transportation:** Diesel trucks, trains & barges

Pollutants: CO₂, NO_x, Spills

- **Disposal:** Landfills and Incinerators

Landfill Pollution: Leachate contaminants in groundwater, Methane

Incinerator Pollution: Noise, Air

- **Environmental Concerns:** Smog, Acid Rain, Climate Change

- **Health Concerns:** Cancer, Respiratory Illness, Birth Defects

Legislation Summary

H.R. 274 Sponsored by Jo Ann Davis Representative from Virginia



- Addresses local concerns (NIMBY)
- Empowers States to regulate interstate commerce
Commerce Clause of US Constitution:
Only Congress has the authority to regulate interstate commerce.
- Allows States to control the volume of MSW imported and the operation of treatment facilities

Solution

What solutions do the Act propose?

Four Specific Recommendations:

- Existing host community agreements remain undisturbed
- New host community agreements must follow stringent guidelines
- Not less than 20% of MSW can be from out-of-state source
- States can choose to take no action

“Transporting all of this garbage so far away means that people that generate it don’t have to deal with its consequences. And if that’s the case, where is their incentive to create less of it?”

***-Michael Town
Director, Sierra Club, Virginia***



Solution



Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- Potentially shorter transport routes
- Incentive for developing innovative technology and source reduction

Disadvantages

- Potentially longer shipping routes
- Alternatives are not yet cost-effective



Options & Alternatives

What options exist to manage waste locally?

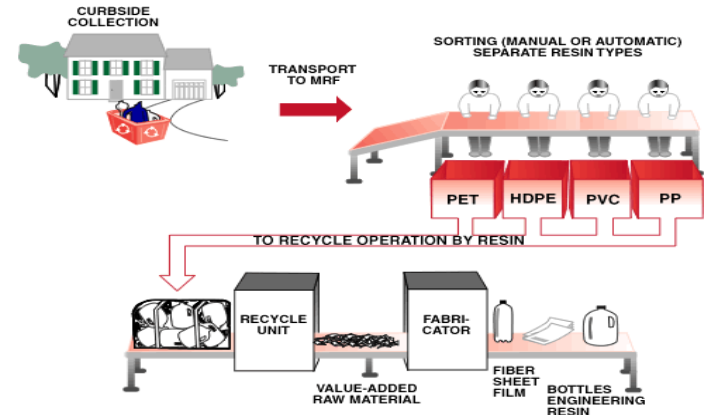


• Improved Technology

- Incinerators
 - Anaerobic Digestion (Biological Decomposition)
 - Pyrolysis & Thermal Gasification (Chemical Decomposition)
- Landfills
 - Bioreactor Landfills

• Volume Reduction

- Recycling
- Source Reduction



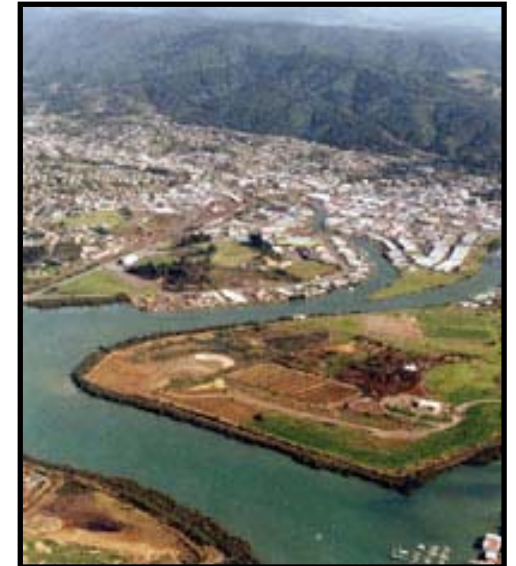
Defining Success

How will success be defined?

Success is defined by the amount of decline in risks to human health and environmental impact associated with interstate transport and treatment of MSW in current importing States.

Indicators

- Decrease in transportation
 - Air pollution
- Decrease in volume of MSW in local communities
 - Ground Water Pollution
- Exporting States treat waste locally



Summary



- ✓ **Transportation of MSW across state boundaries is on the rise**
- ✓ **Environmental & health effects have caused concern in citizens**
- ✓ **H.R. 274: Empowers states to regulate imports and treatment**
- ✓ **Regulation may encourage innovation in treatment**
- ✓ **All methods of disposal lead to negative environmental and health effects so the solution will be in source reduction**
- ✓ **Uncertainty: Discretion of States**

Summary



Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island.

Questions?



Thank You

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Picture Sources

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