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Regulations Governing Private Dumps & Landfills

12/31/57

Above regulations have been on file in the Department of Records since November 29, 1957.

These regulations were advertised in the local newspapers on November 30, 1957.

Since no inquirers were received as a result of this advertising, the regulations, having been on file for the required thirty day period, are now in effect.

CC:

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File (1)
File (2) ✓

November 20, 1957

REGULATIONS GOVERNING PRIVATE DUMPS AND LANDFILLS

Department of Public Health
City of Philadelphia

Pursuant to Section 5-301(b) of the Home Rule Charter and Sections 9-604(7) and 6-214(1)(g) of ~~The~~ Philadelphia Code, the following regulations are promulgated by the Board of Health.

1. Definitions

a. Private dump or landfill. Real property in or upon which refuse is deposited, other than when operated by the

b. Refuse. All discarded waste materials, except water-borne wastes and cover material.

c. Garbage. The organic residue of animal or vegetable matter resulting from the handling, preparation or consumption of food, and waste food and food products.

d. Active surface. That portion of a private dump or landfill upon or in which refuse is being deposited or has been deposited within the previous 48 hours.

e. Inactive surface. That portion of a private dump or landfill upon or in which refuse has not been deposited within the previous 48 hours.

f. Sanitary landfill. A type of refuse disposal in which refuse is so handled at the disposal site by depositing, com-

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packing and covering ■ as to avoid occurrence or creation of fire, smoke, odor, rodent or arthropod harborage and breeding, or general nuisance conditions.

g. Cover material. Material of an inert nature such as earth, loam, clay, sand, gravel, ashes, cinders or similar substances or combinations of such materials which, with proper depth and compaction, will not be dispersed by the wind, will confine odors, will prevent ready access to deposited refuse by rodents or arthropods, ^{will} prevent migration of fly larvae, and will prevent nuisances or fire hazards.

h. Dangerous materials. Refuse which presents an inherent or imminent safety or health hazard to humans, including, but not limited to, materials which are explosive, radioactive or toxic.

2. Scope of regulations. These regulations shall apply to all private dumps or landfills, except the receipt or storage of cover material and the disposal by a householder of his own household refuse on the property where he lives.

3. Supervision

A person in responsible charge of operations shall be on duty at private dumps ^{or} landfills continuously during the hours of active operation.

4. Trespassing

Effective measures shall be taken to prevent trespassing or dumping at private dumps or landfills by unauthorized persons, and to prevent trespassing and dumping when unattended.

5. Receipt of Dangerous Materials

Where the operator of a private dump or landfill has know-

ledge of, or reason to know of, the inclusion of dangerous materials in refuse delivered to the private dump or landfill, he shall receive, handle, and dispose of such materials in accordance with procedures established by or in a manner approved by the Department of Public Health.

6. Operation

a. All private dumps and landfills within the City of Philadelphia shall be operated as sanitary landfills.

b. Refuse shall be deposited in excavations or at locations on the ground surface designated by the operator. Where trenches are used, trench walls shall be sufficiently thick to maintain their shape under all operating conditions, but not less than three (3) feet thick.

c. Refuse shall be deposited and spread and thoroughly compacted to firmness before being covered with cover material by appropriate methods approved by the Department of Public Health.

d. All active surfaces shall be completely covered with cover material to a minimum compacted depth of six (6) inches at the end of each day's dumping operation; or, in the case of continuous operation, at the end of each twenty-four (24) hour period.

e. Inactive surfaces shall be compacted and completely covered with cover material to a minimum firmly compacted depth of twelve (12) inches, provided, however, that where considerable quantities of putrescible refuse, including garbage, are deposited, additional approved cover material may be required by the Department of Public Health to provide a total firmly compacted depth

of twenty-four (24) inches. Where arthropod or rodent breeding or harborage, odors, fire hazards, or other nuisance conditions develop, the Department of Public Health may require that cover material be provided up to a total compacted depth of twenty-four (24) inches.

f. Where refuse delivered to a private dump or landfill conforms to the requirements for cover material, spreading and compaction only shall be required. This provision shall not prohibit the storage of cover materials.

g. **The** person owning or operating a private dump or landfill shall ^{not} get or permit anyone else to set on fire any refuse at the site, and shall take immediate steps after discovery thereof to extinguish any fire or smoke conditions which may occur. On discovery of subsurface fire, operations shall be immediately discontinued in the immediate area until the fire is extinguished.

h. Layers of compacted refuse and temporary and final cover shall not exceed eight (8) feet in depth. Such layers shall be allowed to settle for a period of one (1) year before they may be used as a base for additional depositing of refuse. The Department of Public Health may authorize greater depths or lesser periods of settlement where unusual topographical or other conditions exist.

i. Hot materials which would tend to ignite refuse which has been deposited or which is being transported shall be handled so as to prevent combustion or ignition.

j. No person owning or operating a private dump or landfill shall permit dust or odor conditions to develop which constitute

air pollution or an air pollution nuisance as defined in the Air Pollution Code. Exposed refuse, access roadways and other surface areas shall be sprayed with water and/or treated with chemicals when necessary to avoid dust conditions.

7. Surface Elevations

a. Surfaces shall be sloped or otherwise controlled so as to protect the cover material and refuse from erosion.

8. Salvage Operations

a. No person operating a private dump or landfill shall, or permit anyone else to, salvage or reclaim any food or food products, whether or not in a container, which may be delivered to the site for disposal. Such food or food products shall be promptly unloaded, spread and compacted to firmness, and covered to a depth of at least twenty-four (24) inches with other refuse material, or with cover material.

b. Salvaging or reclamation of materials (except food or food products) is permitted, provided all salvaged materials are removed to a location at such distance from the active surface as not to interfere with unloading, spreading, compacting or covering operations.

9. Access Roads

Roadways leading to the active surface shall be so constructed and maintained as to permit ready access by vehicles and equipment whenever the private dump or landfill is open for refuse disposal.

10. Water Supply

a. An adequate supply of water shall be available for use in eliminating fire or smoke, or controlling dust conditions.

b. Appropriate facilities and equipment is satisfactory

operating condition shall be available to distribute water effectively under pressure to all portions of the private dump or landfill.

11. Drainage and Water Pollution

a. Initial operations at a private dump or landfill shall include, whenever practicable, the filling in of wet or swampy portions, or the draining of such portions.

b. Storm water runoff, surface water-courses and subsurface drainage through a private dump or landfill shall be controlled in a manner approved by the Department of Public Health so as to avoid contamination of potable water supplies or swimming places, prevent mosquito breeding, prevent air pollution or other nuisance conditions, and prevent pollution of surface bodies of water in violation of any law, ordinance or regulation.

c. Sites of private dumps and landfills shall be so protected in areas subject to flooding or water submergence that refuse and cover material deposited there will not be washed away.

d. No new private dump or landfill shall be so located as to constitute a source of potential pollution to any potable water supply, or cause pollution of a surface body of water in violation of any law, ordinance or regulation. Operations at an existing private dump or landfill shall not constitute a source of pollution to a surface body of water in violation of any law, ordinance or regulation, or to any potable water supply.

12. Rodent and Arthropod Control

Effective measures shall be taken at private dumps and landfills to prevent breeding or harborage or infestation by

rodents or arthropods. All salvaged material shall be handled in such manner as not to provide rodent harborage.

13. Fencing

Fencing shall be installed, ~~when necessary~~, to confine paper and other wind-borne materials to the active dumping area.

14. Disasters or Emergencies

When, in the opinion of the Health Commissioner, a period of disaster or emergency exists involving public health, he may waive any of the provisions of these regulations for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

15. Approval of Application for License for Private Dumps or Landfills

Plans for private dumps or landfills submitted to the Department of Public Health for approval shall be accompanied by such information as the Department of Public Health may request to show how the proposed operation of the private dump or landfill will comply with these regulations and with Sections 9-604(7) and 6-214(1)(g) of The Philadelphia Code.

16. Inspection

Authorized representatives of the Department of Public Health shall be permitted to enter private dumps or landfills at any time for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations or with Section 9-604(7) and Section 6-214(1)(g) of The Philadelphia Code, and the owner, operator, or person in charge shall give such representatives free and unhindered access for inspection purposes.

17. These regulations shall become effective on January 1, 1958.