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January 2008

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| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
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## Blogs:

- Akrocentric:**  
Raw Umber art heist: THEFT, a poem by Madeleine Mysko.
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Talks begin with Anderson, Lewis
- Cleveland Cavaliers:**  
LeBron beats Kobe again... better late than never
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## Landfill operator breaking new science at Stark facility

By Tim Vandersall

Published on Monday, Jan 28, 2008

PIKE TOWNSHIP: The team at the Countywide Recycling & Disposal Facility would like the community to understand the facts about our facility and the measures employed at Countywide to ensure the community's safety.

The events at Countywide are truly unique.

Neither the Ohio nor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has had many experiences with aluminum dross reactions in landfills, which is why both regulatory agencies are working with us to understand the reaction and develop appropriate remedial responses.

What is learned through this experience likely will be the basis for future policies and procedures for aluminum waste disposal at landfills across the country.

Many landfills in the country have accepted aluminum dross, including all three landfills within the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Waste Management District.

Because there is little experience on this subject, Countywide and the state and federal EPAs are proceeding in a diligent manner to ensure that whatever remedial measures are employed have a high probability of success.

Despite claims that the landfill's liner has been damaged, Countywide is confident the community is safe. Our confidence is based on several factors:

- The site is located in an ideal geological location for a landfill.
- A composite liner system is deployed throughout the entire disposal area.
- Beneath the liner system there is up to 40 feet of low permeability material between the liner system and the uppermost aquifer.
- There is no pathway from the landfill to any public water supplies.

While we are fortunate that Countywide is a 100-percent-lined facility, the liner is only one of several lines of defense protecting the public from a potential release. In addition to the ideal geologic location of the facility, the liner system consists of a synthetic liner about as thick as a nickel, underlain by a geosynthetic clay liner that is further underlain by three to five feet of recompacted low permeability clay.

The disposal area is also surrounded by numerous groundwater monitoring wells that are designed to detect a release from the facility. These wells are positioned at specific locations designed to detect a release from the facility long before it could ever leave the Countywide property.

Thus, there are redundant measures employed to ensure the safety of the public.

While we will continue to monitor the liner system and continue to confirm its integrity, it is not appropriate to alarm the public into believing that a potential breach of one component of a small portion of the composite liner would result in contamination of public water supplies. This is simply not the case.

If that were the case, legislators certainly would have grave concerns about the potential for contamination at nearly every other landfill in the district, the state and in the United States where modern composite liners are mostly nonexistent or partially existent.

Another apparent misperception is the belief that the reaction somehow relates to the ongoing disposal operations at the facility. There is no such connection.

In fact, the reaction is located in an older, inactive area, which is about 1,000 feet from the active disposal area, and Countywide has dedicated every imaginable resource to remediating the situation, from thousands of hours of human labor to millions of dollars. We are complying with the strictest orders ever issued by the Ohio EPA and we are meeting every requirement of the orders.

The public seems to be under the impression that if daily operations ceased, the issues at the facility would be resolved. This is not the case. The daily operations take place in physically and geographically distinct areas away from the reaction.

The reaction is being controlled. Odors are much less noticeable and are rare, except when we are performing remediation measures near the reaction area. The reaction area continues to be closely monitored by Countywide's professionals, the state and federal environmental agencies and numerous geotechnical and landfill experts.

The bottom line is: The landfill is safe, the air at and around the landfill is safe and the groundwater is safe. This has been repeatedly documented by more than 17 years of detailed groundwater analyses, by hundreds of air analyses, which continue today, and by the state EPA and countless third-party experts.

Outside of this isolated event, Countywide is one of the best performing landfills in the nation. We are an outstanding corporate citizen, contributing to hundreds of community causes and supporting the economic vitality of our community.

Since this unique reaction first began in December 2005, Countywide and its owner, Republic Services, have done the right thing. And we will continue to do the right thing until the reaction is completely remedied.

