

Regulatory Corner

In June of 2019, DEQ released the [annual report on solid waste management in Virginia](#). The report provides the amount of solid waste managed in Virginia in 2018, as well as the types and sources of solid waste generated outside the commonwealth. The full text of the report can be found [here](#).

Highlights of the report include:

- Approximately 13.85 million tons or 64% of the total (21.8 million tons) were municipal solid waste
- Approximately 13.08 million tons (72%) is disposed in landfills, and about 2.2 million tons (12%) is incinerated. The remainder was managed by other means, including composting, mulching and recycling.
- Five jurisdictions accounted for 98% of waste received from out-of-state sources: Maryland; Washington, D.C., New York, North Carolina and New Jersey.
- For wastes generated in Virginia during 2018, the total amount increased by 1.3%. Municipal solid waste increased by 4.32%. Waste classified as construction and demolition debris decreased by 5.49% and industrial waste decreased by 9.96% compared to 2017.

The full text of the report can be found [here](#).

In 2020, it is anticipated that DEQ will be issuing a notice of intended regulatory action (NOIRA) to open the [Solid Waste Regulations](#) for revisions. This is based upon a findings from a [Periodic Review](#) that was conducted in the summer of 2019. Items that are anticipated to be considered in the Amendment include:

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| • Siting, design and operation | • Exemptions and exclusions |
| • Household waste open burning | • Closure and post-closure requirements |
| • Financial responsibility | • Permitting process |
| • Public participation | • Recordkeeping requirements |
| • Groundwater Monitoring | |

A Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) is expected to be formed in consideration of proposed changes.

In 2019, DEQ completed a RAP process for amending the [Regulated Medical Waste Regulations](#). It is projected that the NOIRA that will publish the proposed changes at some point in 2020. The amendment will modernize the standards for general handling and treatment of regulated medical waste based on current industry best management practices; along with clarifying the requirements for generators and permitted facilities, improving permitting procedures and streamlining the regulations for ease of use.

There have been a couple Guidance Documents impacting the solid waste community that were issued in 2019. These include the [Odor Guidance for Solid Waste Management Facilities](#) which became effective on [November 19th](#) and the [Solid Waste Compliance Program Inspection Manual](#) which became effective on [December 2nd](#).

DEQ is currently working on a Leachate Management Guidance Document which will address such things as head on the liner, free board in tanks and ponds, seeps, etc. It is expected that a working group will be convened in 2020.

The Virginia Waste Management Board last met on December 9, 2019. In this meeting, the Board approved the proposed amendment to RMW Regulations be advertised for public comment. The

meeting minutes can be found [here](#). The next Virginia Waste Management Board meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The Virginia DPOR Board of Waste Management Facility Operators last met on December 19, 2019. In this meeting, the Board approved changing the examination for Certification from an open book exam to a closed book exam. This change will be effective July 1, 2020. The minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#). The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2020.

Legislative Corner

The General Assembly begins their even year “long” session which is scheduled to be a 60-day legislative session beginning on January 8th and ending on March 7th. The long session is set-up to allow time beyond legislating; to also adopt a new biennial budget; along with any amendments to the existing budget. On December 17th, the Governor released his [proposed budget](#) which will be considered during the Session.

There will be [18 new members](#) of the [House Delegates](#) experiencing their first General Assembly as legislators. There are five [Senators](#) who are experiencing their first Senate Session. They are in [District 7](#), [District 10](#), [District 13](#), [District 16](#), and [District 40](#). For the first time since 1993, the General Assembly and the Executive Branch is now all controlled by the Democrats. In the House there are 53 Ds compared to 45 Rs; while in the Senate there are 21 Ds compared to 19Rs. No matter what Party you are affiliated with or what Party is in control, it is important to get to know the representative where you reside and work. To find out who it is, go to this helpful link: <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

The legislators are still operating out of temporary office space as the construction of the new General Assembly building moves on. As the General Assembly gets underway, there are already about 1,500 Bills introduced. There seems to be an initiative for additional environmental legislation than in past sessions; such as additional requirements on large landfills, greenhouse gas emissions and plastic bags. In addition, there are already several Bills dealing with right to work, minimum wage, legalization of marijuana, gun control, redistricting and election reform. There will be frequent Legislative Updates that will be provided to track the progress of Bills and other items of interest to the solid waste industry. Stay tuned!