

I. Introduction

A. Plan Approval Date, Counties in District, and Planning Period Length

- Under current approved (or ordered to be implemented) plan:

Date of approval or order to implement	December, 1993
Counties within district	Mercer
Years in planning period	10

- Plan to be implemented with approval of this document

Counties within district	Mercer
Years in planning period	23
Year 1 of the planning period	1997

B. Reasons for Plan Submittal

Both reasons for Plan submittal are listed below:

- MANDATORY three-year plan update.
- MATERIAL CHANGE in circumstances. Coinciding with the schedule for mandatory updates, the Board Directors have determined that circumstances have materially changed from those addressed in the approved initial plan of the District. Identified below are the major circumstances that have caused a material change in District circumstances.
 - The in-District landfill temporarily closed due to delays in issuance of expansion permit from Ohio EPA;
 - Upon closure of the landfill, funding to the District from Disposal Fees was discontinued;
 - No Generation Fee was instituted to compensate for the loss of Disposal Fees;
 - The District borrowed from the County's General Fund to meet the most basic of obligations;
 - The District shut down operations;
 - Landfill operator received the necessary permit to reopen the landfill and the District began to receive some disposal fee revenue;
 - Plan Amendment was adopted by the Policy Committee, and vetoed by Celina City Council, and the programs, policies and budgets have been re-drafted several times;
 - The In-District Landfill is (again) nearing the end of its permitted capacity and the District must find other funding as well as potentially requiring access to other capacity.

C. Process to Determine Material Change in Circumstances

The term "material change in circumstances" is defined by the District as a change (or changes) in the elements of the Plan that are so drastic that the District cannot implement the Plan as approved.

Although the overriding purpose in preparing a plan update is the mandatory schedule, the circumstances surrounding material changes are explained below.

The original Plan empowered the Board of Directors to impose a three-tier disposal fee on the local landfill, which was open and operating at the time. Funds derived from these fees were intended to finance implementation of conventional solid waste programs. However, by the time the Plan was implemented, some programs were quickly determined to be infeasible due to a shortfall in the anticipated funding. Shortly after that, the landfill closed and all funding to the District was cut off. As authorized by the Plan, the Board delayed implementation of numerous programs for lack of available funds.

During the past few years, the demand for services in the District changed. These changes were due in large part to an evolving local economy, regional economic downturn, improved environmental awareness, closure of the local landfill, and a wealth of other circumstances. In addition, the Ohio law authorizing Solid Waste District has and is changing frequently, creating different landscapes with the responsibilities and authorities of Solid Waste Districts.

During the annual January meeting with the Policy Committee, the Board of Directors will review the previous Annual District Report and any subsequent and substantial events. The Policy Committee will then be required to determine whether a substantive change has occurred.

The Public Participation strategy as outlined in Section 7 will be the process through which the District will determine if a material change in circumstances has occurred. At least once a year the Policy Committee will convene and review the District's progress. During the annual reporting information on the programs will be reviewed and the Policy Committee will make a specific determination whether or not a material change in circumstances has occurred. The Policy Committee will take available and relevant information into consideration, but will focus on the achievements (or failures) of District programs with special emphasis given to:

1. Projected availability of disposal capacity (or lack thereof);
2. Projected availability of funding (or lack thereof);
3. Projected recycling opportunities within the District;
4. Projected variable rate subscription goals compared to the approved Plan

If it appears that there has been a significant change in circumstances, the Policy Committee will discuss the appropriateness of a Plan Amendment to better align the District's goals with the changing environment. The conclusions from these discussions will be forwarded to the Board of Directors with any recommendations for Plan revision. A revision of the Plan would be intended to either redirect the Board toward implementation of the approved Plan or to better align the Plan with the District's current circumstances. If the Board accepts the recommendation to amend the Plan, a request for amendment will be forwarded to the Policy Committee for action.

D. District Formation and Certification Statement

On December 23, 1988 The Mercer Board of County Commissioners established the Mercer County Solid Waste Management District; submitting an application of C (II) exemption. The

District is a single county district comprised solely of Mercer County.

The District was formed under the mandates of House Bill (H.B.) 592, which also requires that each district prepare a plan for the safe and sanitary management of solid wastes generated with the District for a minimum of 10 years. It is also mandated that every three (3) years that the Plan be updated. This document is an update to the approved Solid Waste Management Plan.

Appendix A contains the resolution for District Formation. Appendix B of the Plan contains all public notices as they appeared in local newspapers, publicizing hearings, and comments on the District plan. Appendix C contains a certification statement signed by members of the Policy Committee asserting that the contents of the plan are true and accurate. Also included are resolutions by the Policy Committee:

- 1) Adopting the plan prior to ratification, and
- 2) Certifying that the plan has been properly ratified.

Also in Appendix C, copies all political jurisdictions in the District which voted on ratification of the Plan, the population represented by each, and the percentage population of the District as represented by the political jurisdictions which ratified the Plan.

E. Policy Committee Members

The Policy Committee Members for the Mercer County Solid Waste District are as follows:

Mr. Jerry Laffin, Chair	Representing Mercer County Commissioners
Mr.. Michael J. Sovinski	City of Celina
Mr.. Chris Miller	Representing Mercer County Health Department
Mr. Jack Staugler	Representing Industry
Mr. Sylvan Jutte, Granville Township Trustee	Representing Township Trustees
Mr. Randy Diller	Representing the Public
Mr. Mike Niekamp,	Representing the Public

F. Board of Directors

Mr. Jerry D. Laffin, Chair
 Mr. Jim Zehringer
 Mr. Thomas A. Gagel

G. District Address and Phone Number

Mercer County Solid Waste Management District

Mr. Kent Hinton, District Coordinator

c/o Mercer Co Central.Serv Bldg 220 W. Livingston Street RmA201

Celina, Ohio 45822-1671

Phone No.: 419-586-3695

FAX No.: 419-586-1866

H. Technical Advisory Committee and Other Subcommittees

1. Assisting in the Planning Process.

There is no Technical Advisory Committee or any other committees at this time to assisting the planning process.

2. Implementing the Plan.

Implementation of the Mercer County Solid Waste Management District's *Solid Waste Management Plan* is accomplished through the Board of Directors, the Policy Committee, and the Office of Recycling and Waste Management (a.k.a. the District Office). These three groups work together; using the authorities granted them by law, to implement the approved District *Solid Waste Management Plan*. Good implementation is achieved through education, communication, and cooperation with the community and industries.