

Citizens Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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Good afternoon. Let me begin with a brief historical perspective on waste management. Back in the middle of the last century, our country and its industry were growing rapidly. Unfortunately so was the waste - both the household and industrial. We were faced with a massive waste crisis because the indiscriminate dumping of wastes was poisoning people.

The government had to act and did so with a set of laws called the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Note- this is not the Lined Landfill Act. In fact, the spirit of this law is a 4 point integrated waste management system involving

1. **Waste reduction** - Public education to reuse things and carefully consider what you throw away.

2. **Recycling** - plastic to plastic; glass to glass; paper to paper; metal to metal

3. **Resource (energy) recovery** - Squeeze out the last bit of energy from the remaining waste. Usually involves incineration.

4. **And finally, landfills** - RCRA aim is 10% of original waste to end up in landfill.

You might ask does this actually exist? Yes, in fact our Commissioners were taken to such a landfill in St. Petersburg Florida.

They have an extensive recycling program, and an elaborate hazardous waste elimination plan. The reduced non-hazardous waste entering the landfill is then incinerated and the heat energy produced is converted to electricity.

The sterilized ash (15% of the original waste) remaining goes to the landfill which is very simple and has no plastic liner

system. This is modern state-of-the-art waste management, but it is expensive. The Conecuh woods proposed landfill will accept 100% of the original waste - unrecycled, contains hazardous material, no combustion reduction.

Lined landfills that accept huge amounts of unrecycled, commingled, and partially toxic waste are old fashioned and not in the spirit of the RCRA regulation no matter how many liners or leachate collection systems they employ. They are only a step above unlined dumps in the modern hierarchy of waste management.

But lined landfills are relatively cheap, and so they are very profitable for the owners, especially if they accept mega tons of raw waste a day.

Here are the problems with the lined landfill full of unrecycled, toxic waste.

1. Lined landfills leak - experts agree, manufacturers agree, there is a whole industry now to detect leaks in landfills. Even Conecuh Woods agrees they leak. Why else would they boast that their lined landfill would have a leak detection system?
2. The EPA says lined landfills will eventually fail. We already have examples of early failures. Camp Pendleton landfill was a state of the art modern landfill and it failed massively, leaving the community it served with a polluted environment and leaving a large financial burden for the taxpayers. Conecuh Woods has gone on record saying "No one should be surprised that a contractor hired by the federal government didn't do what they were supposed to do". But in the next breath they reassure us that we will be safe because a government agency - ADEM -will be protecting us from landfill hazards. Either way, I do not feel safe or reassured.
3. They contain poisonous material. Much of the material going

