

Mounds to extend life of landfill

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LOCK HAVEN — If you can't dig it deeper anymore, you're going to have to build it up.

That's the basic concept behind a large-scale expansion effort at the Wayne Township Landfill — one where old trenches are emptied, the voids are lined, and ditches are replaced with mounds of a new-tech lined landfill that allows for 66 percent more storage space.

Landfill General Manager Jay Alexander provided the Clinton County Planning Commission with an overview of the project Tuesday evening.

If the plan is approved by the state, the first step will be to relocate about 300,000 cubic yards of existing trash from the Northside Landfill to the Southside Landfill. The crews will then construct the liner system for the first field and begin to transfer trash into the new field.

This process will continue until all in-place trash is removed and placed in the new landfill.

So if the Solid Waste Authority is moving trash from the old site to the present site, where's the gain?

"The additional capacity comes from the height," Alexander said.

The process will allow the authority to mound the fill at the old site up to a height of 150 feet or more, creating a larger volume of space to store solid waste before the area is eventually capped.

Call it recycling on a grand scale.

Landfill officials have submitted an extensive application late last year. A more formal review is expected in early February as township and Department of Environmental Protection officials gather for an information sharing session on the expansion project.

The \$50 million proposal calls for reopening and lining a 75-acre, triangular plot to the north side of the landfill, which has been closed since 1991.

The old fill will be emptied of refuse, which will be transferred to the now operating section of landfill, Alexander said. As the process continues, the old fill will be lined to protect the groundwater table.,

Landfill officials say DEP could take up to two years to review the application. The project should cost just under \$50 million, Alexander said.

As an added benefit, Alexander said, an existing rail system could also be improved and reinstated as part of the expansion project, allowing trash to be sent into the landfill via train.

"When gasoline goes to about \$5 a gallon, we want to be ready for when haulers are reluctant to travel distances in order to deliver solid waste," he said. "We are making these plans because we don't want to be like the cable industry where you start paying \$10 a month for services and end up paying over \$60 a month for those same services."