

October 9, 2024

Penny Clayton
Emmet County Council of Government
PO Box 417
Estherville, IA 51334

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Transfer Station Inspection
Permit #32-SDP-02-78P-XFR, Emmet County

Dear Ms. Clayton:

Enclosed is a copy of the report resulting from the October 3, 2024, inspection of the Emmet County Transfer Station.

If you have any questions, or feel the report does not represent the conditions at your facility, please call me at (712) 262-4177.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Christian, Environmental Specialist Senior
jennifer.christian@dnr.iowa.gov
Field Services and Compliance Bureau

JC:lw

C: -Becky Jolly, PP&ES, E&WMB, ESD, DNR, Des Moines

Enc: -Inspection report

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**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSFER STATION PERMIT INSPECTION**

Permit No.: 32_SDP-02-78P-XFR	County: Emmet County
Facility Name: Emmet County Transfer Station John Pytleski, manager/operator	Facility Address: Emmet County Transfer Station 703 South 1st Street Estherville, IA 51334
Phone Number: 712-362-5250	
Responsible Official: Penny Clayton Emmet County Council of Governments	Mailing Address: Penny Clayton Emmet County Council of Governments PO Box 417 Estherville, IA 51334
Phone Number: 712-362-7771	
Date of Last Inspection: 11/30/23	Date of This Inspection: 10/3/24

FACILITY SITING & LOCATION REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.9]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. If the transfer station is within the 100-year floodplain, then are there structures to prevent floodwater inundation from a 100-year flood of any area that comes into contact with solid waste or washwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the facility within 500 feet of an educational facility, healthcare facility, or permanent residence? <i>If yes, go to question 2a.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2a. If yes, did construction of the educational or healthcare facility, or permanent residence begin before the permit application was received by the department? <i>If yes go to question 2b.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2b. Is screening (natural preferred but structural OK) utilized to minimize noise and visibility of operations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Structural screening is utilized to minimize noise and visibility of the facility.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER STATION BUILDING [Rule 106.10(1)]:

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Is the transfer station building sufficient to allow all solid waste to be unloaded from collection vehicles and loaded into transport vehicles inside of it? <i>Note: Rear-loading transport vehicles that have no other opening and that securely about the building so that minimal amounts of solid waste escape qualify a being inside the building.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the building sufficient to minimize dust and litter exiting the building?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the building sufficient to keep out precipitation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the building sufficient to prevent the attraction or harboring of vectors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are all surfaces that come in contact with solid waste or washwater impervious to liquids?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Does the building have a drainage system that maintains a separation between stormwater and washwater?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Does the building have a washwater collection system that directs washwater to a tank for later disposal, a sanitary sewer, or equivalent approved by the department? <i>If the collection system has tanks for later disposal go to question 7a.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7a. If washwater collection tanks are utilized for storage for later disposal, then do the tanks have high-level indicators or gauges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Does the transfer station store solid waste during non-operating hours? <i>If yes go to questions 8a and 8b.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8a. Is the solid waste storage area clearly marked (i.e. a sign, painted line, cones, etc)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8b. Does the solid waste storage area have a fire detection system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item	Yes	No	NA
9. Does the building have a surge pit to handle large volumes of incoming waste? <i>If yes go to questions 9a and 9b.</i> <i>Note: Surge pits are typically found in large transfer stations where a large number of trucks can overload the tipping floor. Surge pits provide more space for temporary storage during peak operating hours and may also allow for additional compaction of the solid waste before it is loaded into transport vehicles.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9a. Does the facility have effective odor control mechanisms?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9b. Does the surge pit have a sprinkler system in case of fire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. If the transfer station salvages materials, are the salvage storage areas clearly marked (i.e. signs, painted lines, cones, etc)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Is there sufficient indoor and outdoor lighting to minimize the difference in lighting (i.e. no temporary light blindness) when entering or exiting the building?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Are their doors at each entrance and exit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The salvageable materials are clearly marked in their specific storage areas. Indoor lighting is sufficient and exhaust fans provide acceptable air quality inside the building. The interior of the transfer station was in orderly condition during the inspection.

OTHER DESIGN REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.10(2)]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Does the facility have a secure perimeter fence with lockable gates?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the facility use an IDALS certified scale? <i>Note: The scale does not have to be on-site (i.e. nearby COOP, quarry, landfill etc).</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the facility have adequate queuing distance for vehicles entering and exiting the property such that lines do not extend onto public streets? <i>If no go to question 3a.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3a. Does the facility have approval from the local government authority for lines to back-up onto public streets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Does the facility have signs or pavement markings indicating safe and proper on-site traffic patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there a sign at the primary entrance specifying: a. The name and permit number of the facility; b. The operating hours; c. The materials accepted or the statement, 'All materials must have prior approval'; d. The telephone number of an emergency contact person?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

This exterior of the facility provides a safe atmosphere for its patrons and employees. The entire facility is surrounded by a chain-link fence with lockable gates. The entrance sign displays the required information and is in a highly visible location. The IDALS certified scale is located off site at Shine Brothers.

OPERATING REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.11]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Is site access controlled and limited to a time when a transfer station operator is on duty that: a. Has read, understands, and is able to implement the plan of operations? b. Has read, understands, and is able to implement the Emergency Response and Remedial Action Plan? c. Is able to visually recognize universal symbols, markings, and indicators of unacceptable materials such as hot loads, and hazardous, infectious, and radioactive wastes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. If the transfer station is permitted for 20,000 tons or more per year of solid waste, then is an operator on duty that has been certified in a SWANA Transfer Station Manager Course, or other course acceptable to the department?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is solid waste only being accepted from within the designated service area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The staff at this facility understands the ERRAP and are able to implement it if needed. They are fully capable of properly screening loads to ensure a safe environment. Solid waste is only being accepted from the designated service area which includes all of Emmet County as well as the cities of Terrill and Superior located in Dickinson County. Solid waste is hauled daily and disposed of at the Northern Great Plains Regional Landfill in Graettinger, Iowa- two loads per day during the spring, summer and fall and one load per day during the winter.

Item	Yes	No	NA
4. Are all unloading, handling, processing, screening, open storage, loading, and similar activities or processes involving solid waste performed inside of the transfer station building? <i>Note: Rear-loading transport vehicles that have no other opening and that securely about the building so that minimal amounts of solid waste escape qualify a being inside the building.</i> <i>Note: Salvaged materials that do not attract or harbor vectors may be stored outside of the building in a clearly marked, designated area.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the solid waste being at least visually screened by personnel capable of identifying hot loads and hazardous, infectious, radioactive, and other wastes not suitable for disposal in a sanitary landfill?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is salvaging only being performed by transfer station operators, and is scavenging prohibited?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the operation of the facility being carried out in a manner that attempts to minimize litter, dust, odor, noise, vibration, and the attraction or harborage of vectors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Is the transfer station building being maintained at a level of cleanliness necessary to prevent a nuisance or public health hazard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is on-site litter being maintained at a level of cleanliness necessary to prevent a nuisance or public health hazard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Is the exterior of all buildings being maintained in a reasonable aesthetic condition, that prevents the attraction or harborage of vectors, so as not to create a nuisance of public health hazard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Is the washwater management system kept from overflowing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Are all surfaces that prevent washwater from entering the ground and groundwater impervious? <i>If no go to question 12a.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12a. Has the breach noted in question 12 been fixed within 24 hours, or has the facility prevented any solid waste or washwater from coming into contact with the breached area until repaired?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

All solid waste is loaded into top loading trailers inside the transfer station building. The concrete floors are swept daily and washed weekly and the wash water is connected to the City of Estherville's sanitary sewer. The interior and exterior of the building was in good condition and kept up in a respectable manner by the staff. There was no solid waste located in unapproved areas.

SOLID WASTE STORAGE [Rule 106.12]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. If solid waste is stored at the transfer station, is it stored: a. Inside the transfer station building in a clearly marked, designated area; or b. Inside the transfer station building in a surge pit; or c. Inside a secure solid waste transport vehicle, protected from precipitation and vectors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is solid waste being stored inside the transfer station building: a. In a designated area that is not a surge pit for not more than 48 hours, excluding Sundays and national holidays? b. In a surge pit for not more than seven days, including Sundays and national holidays?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is solid waste being stored in a transport vehicle designated to: a. Travel only via roadway for not more than 48 hours, excluding Sundays and national holidays; or b. Travel via rail or navigable waterway, including intermodal container systems, for not more than seven days, including Sundays and national holidays?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

During non-operating hours, all solid waste is temporarily stored in the semi-trailer until it is hauled to the landfill for proper disposal.

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.13]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Is a copy of the current permit on site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is a copy of the operations plan on site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is a copy of the emergency response and remedial action plan (Rule 106.19) on site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is proof of financial assurance (Rule 106.18) on file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the transfer station maintaining records of the following information for a period of three calendar years, excluding the time before July 17, 2002:			
a. Tons of all solid waste disposed of quarterly;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Destination of all outgoing solid waste;			
c. Washwater management system inspection log;			
d. Hot loads and hazardous, infectious, radioactive, or other unacceptable wastes found;			
e. Training received by transfer station operator(s) pursuant to rule 106.11(1)? (i.e. see OPERATING REQUIREMENTS questions 1 & 2)			

Comments:

Copies of required documents are kept by this facility as required. All records are being maintained as needed.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.14]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Is the transfer station submitting quarterly tonnage reports to the department that include the following information:			
a. Tons of solid waste disposed of;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Comprehensive planning areas from which the solid waste originated, and the tons of solid waste disposed from each county and comprehensive planning areas;			
c. Destinations of all outgoing solid waste?			
2. Is the transfer station being inspected annually by an Iowa-licensed professional engineer for compliance with rule 106.10 (i.e. see REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER STATION BUILDING and OTHER DESIGN REQUIREMENTS) and submitting that report to the department and field office by the first workday of November each year?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

No violations have been noted. All required reporting is being submitted in a timely manner.

TRANSPORT VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.15]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Is the portion of the solid waste transport vehicle that contains solid waste sufficient to:			
a. Prevent the accidental discharge of its contents;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Prevent the attraction or harborage of vectors; and			
c. Prevent the infiltration of precipitation?			
2. If the transport vehicle has an open-top, then does it have a suitable cover that is not easily torn, shredded, broken, or otherwise breached under normal use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the transport vehicle clean enough to prevent a nuisance or vector attraction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is wastewater generated from any cleaning of the areas of the solid waste transport vehicle that hold solid waste being managed as washwater?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The semi-trailer has a roll top to prevent any solid waste from exiting the trailer during transport.

TRANSPORT VEHICLE OPERATION REQUIREMENTS [Rule 106.16]

Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Are the solid waste transport vehicle's openings securely closed before transport so as to prevent the loss of solid waste?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the solid waste transport vehicle's openings securely closed during storage so as to prevent the loss of solid waste?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. If solid waste is spilled from a solid waste transport vehicle during loading, is it collected as often as necessary to minimize litter, dust, or other fugitive debris?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

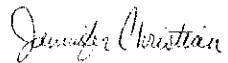
The semi-trailer roll top is properly fastened prior to leaving the facility for transport.

SUMMARY

- In June of 2024, this region experienced a major flood causing an increase in solid waste being brought to the transfer station. The staff members kept up with the increased flow and did an excellent job responding to the needs of their community.
- The permit for this transfer station was issued on December 21, 2022, and will expire on December 21, 2025. The current responsible official is Penny Clayton and the full time operator on site during the inspection is John Pytleski. Brian Clayton and Dave Nitchals are both full time employees. Randolph Dean is currently a part time employee. All solid waste is hauled to Northern Plains Regional Landfill for final proper disposal at approximately two loads per day during spring, summer and fall and one load per day during the winter.
- The 40 receptacles in town continue to be utilized for recycling of cardboard at various businesses located in the city of Estherville. This recycling activity continues to be successful asset for the community.
- During the inspection the tipping floor contained a recent load of solid waste. The recycling portion of the building was very organized, clean of debris and in good condition. The floors are washed weekly to help control any odor issues.
- The exterior of the building appeared to be in excellent condition. There was no wind blow litter issues and the property is kept very clean. The required sign at the entrance was posted and there are two lockable gates. The entire property is enclosed by a chain link fence. The flood that took place in June did not cause any damage to the transfer station building or property.
- The two covered waste transport trailers (one new), three semis (one new) and the skid loader were in good working condition and receive regular maintenance every 100 hours.
- Plastics, cardboard, tin and shredded paper continue to be baled inside the transfer station building. The baling of tin started this year. The bales are stored inside the building until sold. These recyclables are being hauled by Quincy Recycle out of Quincey, Illinois.
- Magazines and newspapers are stored in totes and placed in the trailer. When the trailer is full it is hauled to Mason City Recycling.
- During the inspection there were approximately 70 appliances stored to the west of the building in a roll off container. Mr. Pytleski stated they will use a walking floor trailer instead to ensure appliances are not damaged and potentially leaking refrigerants. All appliances are hauled to Corey Climber who is a licensed appliance demanufacturer.
- A roll off container located to the west of the building is used to store scrap metal. During the inspection the trailer had recently been emptied by Shine Brothers from Estherville.
- Electronics are stored in a storage container located to the west of the facility. There was one full tote during the inspection. When they have 12 full totes Retrofit is contacted for pick up.
- Normally, the HHM collection in Estherville is held in the spring and the fall. However, it has been the past couple of years due to the lack of staff at the Spencer RCC where the HHM is collected.
- This facility does not accept waste tires or batteries.
- The IDALS certified scale is located off site at Shine Brothers in Estherville.

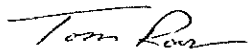
CONCLUSION

Overall, John Pytleski and staff continue to operate the Emmet County Transfer Station in a very organized and professional manner. The facility is clean, easily accessible by the public, and successfully managed. This facility was in compliance with DNR regulations during the inspection.



Inspector: Jennifer Christian

Date: 10/09/2024



Reviewed By: Tom Roos

Date: 10/09/2024