

January 21, 2026

Roman Redig, Chairman
Cherokee County Solid Waste Commission
1805 Linden Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

SUBJECT: Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection
SDP Permit #18-SDP-01-75P Cherokee County

Dear Redig:

Enclosed is a copy of the report resulting from the December 4, 2025, inspection of the Cherokee County Sanitary Landfill. The report is believed to be self-explanatory.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

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

S26/18ch0121-ins.docx

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection

Permit #:18-SDP-01-75P

Page 2

<p>Facility Name: Cherokee County Sanitary Landfill County: Cherokee</p> <p>Facility Operator: Tony Agnitsch, Facility Manager Phone: 712/225-3749</p> <p>Address : 1805 Linden Street, Cherokee, IA 51012 Phone: 712/225-3749</p> <p>Responsible Authority: Cherokee County Solid Waste Commission</p> <p>Responsible Official: Roman Redig, Chairman</p> <p>Address: 1805 Linden Street, Cherokee, IA 51012 Phone: 712/225-3749</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
<p>Date This Inspection: December 4, 2025</p>				<p>Waste Amount: ~18,000 Tons per Year</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facility personnel present: Tony Agnitsch, Facility Manager • present fill location: Cell A-6 • future fill location: Cell B-1 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface conditions: damp • ambient temperature: 0° F • wind direction and speed: 10 mph South 																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
<p>Yes – compliance was being achieved; No – compliance was not being achieved, N/A – not applicable or not observed; PND – previously noted deficiency (PND).</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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INSPECTOR	Name: Jennifer Christian <i>Jennifer Christian</i>				Date: 1/21/26																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
REVIEWER	Name: Tom Roos <i>Tom Roos</i>				Date: 1/21/26																																																																																																																																																																																																																														

General Discussion:

I. Record Keeping:

1. **Permit and Plans** — The operation permit for this landfill facility was renewed on August 2, 2022 and it will expire on August 2, 2027.
2. **Permit Amendments and Permit Revisions** — Permit revisions were made in 2024 concerning the leachate collection shutdown evaluation schedule.
3. **Permit Special Provisions** — The comprehensive planning area for this facility includes all cities and the unincorporated areas in Ida County and Cherokee County, as approved by the Department.
4. **Permit Required Reports:** a. quarterly solid waste report; b. water quality monitoring report; c. semi-annual engineer's report; d. gas monitoring report; e. other — All reports have been submitted as required.
5. **Emergency Response and Remedial Action Plan** — The ERRAP for this facility was submitted as part of the most recent permit renewal application. No changes have been made since the last inspection.
6. **Development & Operation Plan, Leachate Control Plan, Hydrologic Monitoring System Plan, Closure Postclosure Plan** — These plans have been approved by the Department and have been incorporated as required operating conditions of their permit.
7. **Leachate Volume Record** — Leachate is recirculated to the extent that it is possible and the remainder is hauled to the Cherokee Wastewater Treatment Plant. During the inspection Mr. Agnitsch stated that 1,481,000 gallons of leachate had been hauled.
8. **Leachate Control System Performance Evaluation** — No concerns.
9. **Special Waste Authorization & Special Waste Acceptance Criteria** — Since the expiration of SWA #18-SWA-02-12 with VT Industries of Holstein for finish room sander dust on October 29, 2021, no SWAs have been issued for this facility.
10. **Financial Assurance** — This facility was issued an approval of financial assurance requirements on July 24, 2024.
11. **Other** —

II. Operating Procedures:

1. **Fill Cover: a. daily; b. intermediate (7-day); c. final (60-day)** – Solid waste was receiving adequate daily cover and a fresh coat of intermediate cover. *TopCont* and dirt are still being utilized for this purpose.
2. **Fill Elevations (adequate surveying)** – Elevation for the current operating cell, A-6, appeared to be in compliance and are finished with the 20-foot lift. They are filling in low areas on the north slope and will continue to the northeast corner. Mr. Agnitsch stated that a drone was used to identify the remaining air space for the current cell A-6. SCS Engineering is calculating the air space.
3. **Control of Face: a. width; b. slope; c. dumping location** – The working face appeared to be well maintained with sufficient compaction and adequate management of slope/width. Portable screens are located near the working face and are relocated as needed to capture any windblown litter.
4. **Compaction** – The solid waste appears to be receiving adequate compaction with the 232 horsepower 55,000-pound Caterpillar 816F steel wheel compactor.
5. **Drainage: a. cover erosion; b. ponding; c. drainage structures – 1. dikes, berms & terraces, 2. tile lines, 3. ditches** – There were no drainage issues observed during the inspection. Permanent vegetation is present on the slopes of all closed cells.
6. **Leachate Control: a. system operation; b. head measuring device operation; c. seepage** – Leachate is normally recirculated, with excess leachate hauled to Cherokee for treatment. Mr. Agnitsch stated they did not recirculate leachate this year due to the wet spring.
7. **Special Waste Handling** – No concerns.

8. **Recycling Activities** – The tree disposal site is located near the site entrance gate is being well managed. Kolbeck Hay Grinding of Le Mars recently ground the trees and provides this service as needed. A portion of the ground material is utilized to improve road access during wet weather conditions.

The area north of the recycling building contains the compost piles comprised of leaves and grass clippings which is utilized by the community. Shingles are no longer stockpiled for grinding. They are disposed of directly in the landfill.

Comingled recyclables are being stored in the new recycling building north of the scale house. This building was formerly the pelletizing building which was destroyed by a fire and has since been replaced.

Recyclables are loaded into transport trailers and sent to Van's Recycling in Le Mars.

Two roll off containers are located near the scale house for garbage and for scrap metal and were empty during the inspection. Stavers out of Cherokee recently picked up the scrap metal.

Paper and cardboard materials are bailed, sold and shipped to MDK in New Hampton.

This facility receives a small amount of e-waste which is hauled by A-tec from Des Moines.

Discarded appliances are removed by David Baker (a licensed appliance demanufacturer) on roughly a monthly basis. At the time of inspection, two appliances were present.

Siouxland Shredding shreds tires takes tires on site.

Ripple glass out of Kansas City, hauls the glass recyclables.

The household hazardous material collection (HHMC) facility continues to provide services to this planning area. Oxidizers, corrosives and flammables are separated by type and picked up by Tradebee.

9. Scavenging & Vector Control – No problems were observed.

10. Litter Control: a. fences; b. hand picking – Mr. Agnitsch uses portable litter fences and employs a part-time staff member, Chase Baker, whose primary duties are litter control. During this inspection there was very little windblown litter observed.

11. Staffing: a. operators/personnel; b. incoming waste screening; c. operator certification – This landfill currently staffs four certified landfill operators: Tony Agnitsch, Eric Busch, and Trevor Larsen. Melissa Agnitsch and Chase Baker are also on staff.

12. Equipment: a. operation/maintenance; b. backup availability – Equipment available at the site appears to be adequate for this landfill project. The equipment includes an 816F Caterpillar steel wheel compactor, a 621G Case front end loader, a Komatsu D65EX-18 dozer (purchased in 2020), a *TopCoat* alternative daily cover applicator unit, a 3,000-gallon capacity tanker truck to haul leachate, a tractor, a four-wheel drive gator, an excavator, and a dump truck. A new Mitsubishi fork lift was purchased in 2024.

13. Road adequacy - The internal roads are well maintained. Crushed limestone and concrete are utilized on internal roads and in the parking area.

14. Monitoring wells – No changes since last year. All monitoring wells are working, and are labeled to ensure accurate identification for sampling, monitoring, and maintenance efforts.

15. Adverse weather operations – No concerns were noted.

16. On-site facilities: a. perimeter fence/gate; b. signs; c. separation distances – No concerns were observed.

17. Other –

SUMMARY

This facility appears to be operating in compliance with the rules and its operation permit. It appears to be extremely well managed by Mr. Agnitsch and his staff are highly efficient with their specific duties. There were no violations or concerns observed during the inspection.