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August 7, 2026

STEVE VAN DE WALLE
TAMA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COMMISSION
200 BROAD STREET
CHELSEA, IA 52215
s_j_vandewalle@hotmail.com

RE: Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection
Tama County Sanitary Landfill, 2872 K Avenue, Toledo, IA
Sanitary Disposal Project Permit # 86-SDP-01-72P

Dear Mr. Van De Walle:

Enclosed is the report completed by Bill Gross of the Field Office #5 staff following the inspection of the Tama County Sanitary Landfill.

The report should be self-explanatory. Please take note of the reminders listed near the end, and address them as soon as possible.

You may contact Bill Gross (515-238-7871, bill.gross@dnr.iowa.gov) with any questions or comments. Your assistance during this inspection is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Digitally signed by Ted
Petersen
Date: 2026.08.07 13:22:55
-05'00'

Ted Petersen
Supervisor, Field Office #5

c.: [Becky Jolly](#) / [Alexis Slade](#), Land Quality Bureau, Iowa DNR (w/encl.)
Dave Sherwood, landfill@tamacounty.org (w/encl.)

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection**

Permit #: 86-SDP-01-72P

Facility Name: Tama County Sanitary Landfill
County: Tama
Facility Operator: Dave Sherwood, manager
Address: Tama County Landfill 2872 K Avenue, Toledo, IA
Phone: 641-484-5061; landfill@tamacounty.org

Date This Inspection: 7/30/2026
Date Last Inspection: 1/6/2026 (visit)
Waste Amount: 13,583 tpy
 (7/25 – 6/26)

Responsible Official: Steve Van De Walle, chair
Address: Tama Co. Solid Waste Disposal Commission
 200 Broad Street, Chelsea, IA 52215
Phone: 319-310-0578; s_j_vandewalle@hotmail.com

At the Time of this Inspection:

- **facility personnel present:** Darla Thiessen, scale attendant
 Dave Sherwood, manager
- **active unit(s):** middle lift, central portion, Phase 3
- **surface conditions:** dry
- **ambient temperature:** 83°F., cloudy sky
- **wind direction and speed:** SE @ 10 mph

Yes – compliance was being achieved; **No** – compliance was not being achieved,
N/A – not applicable or not observed; **PND** – previously noted deficiency (PND).

I. Documents and Record Keeping:

Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item	Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item
☒	☐	☐	☐	1. Permit/Amendment documents	☒	☐	☐	☐	9. Financial assurance
☐	☐	☒	☐	2. Site exploration report	☒	☐	☐	☐	10. Storm water permit
☒	☐	☐	☐	3. Plans/Specs and QC&A Reports	☒	☐	☐	☐	11. SWA/SWAC documentation
☒	☐	☐	☐	4. Waste screening inspection records	☒	☐	☐	☐	12. Operator Certification
☒	☐	☐	☐	5. Leachate recirculation authorization	☒	☐	☐	☐	13. DOPs
☒	☐	☐	☐	6. Gas monitoring/remediation results	☒	☐	☐	☐	14. ERRAP
☒	☐	☐	☐	7. Groundwater monitoring results	☐	☐	☐	☐	15. Other
☒	☐	☐	☐	8. Closure/Post-closure plans/results					

II. Operating Procedures:

Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item	Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item
☒	☐	☐	☐	1. All weather access road to facility					10. Scavenging and Salvaging
☒	☐	☐	☐	2. Controlled Access at facility	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. scavenging prohibited
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. fencing or other perimeter barriers	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. salvaging authorized
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. entrance gate with lock	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. salvaged material orderly
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. safe/proper on-site traffic patterns	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. salvage removal adequate
☒	☐	☐	☐	3. Signage	☒	☐	☐	☐	11. Animal feeding and grazing
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. facility name and permit number	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. animal feeding prohibited
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. days and hours of operation	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. grazing on final cover limited
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. wastes accepted/not accepted					12. Survey controls and monuments
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. telephone # of resp. official	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. facility and waste boundaries surveyed and marked
☒	☐	☐	☐	4. All weather access road in facility	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. survey monuments established
☒	☐	☐	☐	5. Adequate vehicle queuing	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. stakes clearly marked
☒	☐	☐	☐	6. Certified scale used					13. Fill Sequencing
☒	☐	☐	☐	7. Waste Screening	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. liner system protected
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. random inspections performed	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. slope failure controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. inspection records	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. differential settlement controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. trained personnel	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. run-on and runoff controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. EPA notification procedures					14. Control of Workface
☒	☐	☐	☐	8. Prohibited materials listing	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. size of area controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	9. Open Burning and Fire Hazards	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. slope is stable
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. open burning prohibited	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. litter control devices used
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. vehicle fueling prohibited within 50 feet of workface	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. vectors controlled
					☒	☐	☐	☐	e. operator at workface

Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item
☒	☐	☐	☐	15. Special Waste Handling a. operator familiar with SWAC
☒	☐	☐	☒	16. Waste Fill Cover a. daily cover adequate
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. alternative cover authorized
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. scarification of daily cover
☒	☐	☐	☒	d. intermediate cover adequate (30/180 day)
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. final cover maintained
☒	☐	☐	☐	17. Leachate seeps identified and controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	18. Leachate recirculation a. composite liner
☐	☐	☒	☐	b. RD&D authorization
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. personnel protected
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. erosion controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. vegetation maintained
☒	☐	☐	☒	19. Site Litter Control a. on-site litter picked up daily
☒	☐	☐	☒	b. offsite litter picked up daily
☒	☐	☐	☒	c. record of why litter not picked up
☒	☐	☐	☐	20. Dust Control a. dust controlled as vehicles enter/exit facility
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. dust controlled on internal roads
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. dust controlled at the workface
☒	☐	☐	☐	21. Mud Control a. mud controlled as vehicles enter/exit facility
☒	☐	☐	☐	22. Leachate Control and Treatment a. system operational
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. head measurement device
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. seeps controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. leachate tank maintained
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. leachate lagoon maintained
☒	☐	☐	☐	f. POTW agreement
☐	☐	☒	☐	g. sanitary sewer discharge
☐	☐	☒	☐	h. NPDES discharge permit
☐	☐	☒	☐	i. NPDES on-site treatment
☒	☐	☐	☐	23. Run-on/Runoff Control Systems a. ponding controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. dikes, ditches, berms & terraces intact
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. tile lines maintained
☒	☐	☐	☐	24. Landfill Equipment a. working properly
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. backup equipment available
☒	☐	☐	☐	25. Groundwater Monitoring Wells a. wells intact
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. caps and locks
☒	☐	☐	☐	26. Gas Monitoring Wells/Points
☒	☐	☐	☐	27. Emergency Procedures a. ERRAP available to staff
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. emergency numbers posted
☒	☐	☐	☐	28. Final Cover System a. final cover over completed areas
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. seeded
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. vegetation established
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. run-on, runoff, and ponding controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. differential settlement controlled
☐	☐	☐	☐	29. Other

Comments: I arrived at the landfill unannounced. Both closed and active portions of the site were viewed. All records I requested were provided to me at the landfill or emailed to me shortly thereafter.

AUTHENTICATION

INSPECTOR	Bill Gross, Environmental Specialist Senior  Digitally signed by Bill Gross Date: 2026.08.07 12:36:33 -05'00'	Date: 8/6/2026
REVIEWER	Janet Gastineau, Environmental Specialist Senior Janet Gastineau Digitally signed by Janet Gastineau Date: 2026.08.07 12:55:01 -05'00'	Date: 8/7/2026

General Description: The Tama County Sanitary Landfill is located north of Toledo at 2872 K Avenue. The service area includes all cities and unincorporated areas of Tama County. The site consists of 62 acres of land. The northern portion of the site is filled and closed. Expansion is occurring south of this area. The Phase 1 expansion area has a clay liner and leachate collection. It already contains waste. To the west, Phase 2 and Phase 3 have synthetic liners and leachate collection with a lift station and lined holding pond.

I. Record Keeping:

- 1. Permit application, permit renewal and permit modifications application materials pursuant to rule 113.5(455B). [See 113.11 (1)“a”]:** The current permit has an April 13, 2027, expiration date.
- 10. Stormwater permit [See 64.3(455B)]:** The current stormwater discharge permit (No. IA-13061-12846) has a March 10, 2028, expiration date. The last lab analysis report shows runoff samples were collected May 19, 2026. A trend analysis of sample results (since 2013), does not show deteriorating water quality.
- 12. Operator Certification:** There are currently four employees (Dave Sherwood, Rod Radeke, Steve Rouse, and Darla Thiessen) that are certified landfill operators.

II. Operating Procedures:

- 6. A scale certified by the Iowa department of agriculture and land stewardship. [See 113.7(3) “g” and 113.8(3)“b”]:** The scale was last calibrated by Fairbanks Scales on July 20, 2026.
- 7. Waste screening for prohibited materials [See 113.8(1) “a”]--Random inspections of incoming loads:** Records show that waste loads were being checked several times weekly both at the scale and at the working face.
- 12. Survey controls and monuments [See 113.8(2) “a”]:** Operators follow the GPS equipment for identifying waste placement and elevations.
- 15. Special Wastes Managed [See 113.8(2) “e”]:** I observed car wash sludge on piles for drying above the current working face. Liquid runoff paths were emanating from the piles. This material may be treated as the general special waste category, which includes stabilized grit, bar screenings, and grease skimmings [567 IAC 109.11(3)] (excluding item b.):
 - a. The waste cannot contain any free liquids as determined by the paint filter liquids test.
 - ~~b. The generator shall stabilize the grit, bar screenings, and grease skimmings prior to their disposal at the landfill in order to destroy any pathogenic organisms. Stabilization can be done by addition of lime to raise the pH to at least 12 for two hours.~~
 - c. The generator shall prearrange a delivery schedule with the landfill operator.
 - d. Upon arrival at the landfill, the hauler shall identify the waste to the landfill attendant.
 - e. The landfill operator shall direct the hauler to the working face.
 - f. The waste shall be deposited at the working face, covered with regular refuse or soil and compacted.

This requires the sludge to pass the paint filter test. If it does not pass, a permit amendment would be necessary to allow for solidification on-site. If it does pass this test, the landfill may develop its own special waste acceptance criteria (SWAC) in lieu of the guidelines listed above.

- 16. Cover/Alternative cover material adequate [See 113.8(2) “f”]:** Daily and intermediate cover was not adequate during an inspection in 2025. Cover was adequate during this inspection and during a site visit in January. Daily cover was being achieved using a tarp on the face and soil on top.

- 19. Litter control [See 113.8(3) “f”]:** Excessive litter was observed on-site during an inspection in 2025. I saw little litter during this inspection or during a January site visit. Records show litter collection had been conducted as needed, with frequent collection during the spring season when windy conditions are prevalent.
- 22. Leachate collection [See 113.7(5)“b”] and treatment [See 113.8(3) “i”]:** Leachate head measurement show the twelve-inch maximum was being met (greatest leachate thickness in 2026 has been five inches). The leachate lagoon was nearly empty. Records show 161,700 gallons were recirculated in the active landfill in 2025, and 459,900 gallons so far in 2026. Records show 738,813 gallons were hauled to the Toledo wastewater treatment plant in 2025, and 348,897 gallons so far in 2026. A treatment agreement with Toledo has a November 2, 2027, expiration date.
- 28. Final cover system control [See 113.12(455B)]:** The north and east filled areas had good vegetative cover except for a few spots that were bare or sparse. This could be the result of gas ventilation. If so, installation of gas control mechanisms should be considered.

SUMMARY OF REMINDERS

- Ensure that car wash sludge passes a paint filter test. If it does not, obtain a permit amendment to allow for solidification on-site. If it does, follow the general special waste handling procedures for stabilized grit, bar screenings, and grease skimmings (excluding item b.) [567 IAC 109.11(3)], or develop special waste acceptance criteria (SWAC) for this material.
- Monitor finished areas with dead vegetation for possible gas ventilation and take remedial action as deemed necessary.



car wash sludge drying area



car wash sludge drying area



north slope, north filled area



north slope, north filled area



bare spots in north filled area



bare spots in north filled area



west side, north filled area



working face



working face



leachate lagoon



leachate loading rack