

Best Practice

Specific Risk Materials Disposal Project

CONTACT

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Project Date: 2008 (ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

With the outbreaks of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the past, there became a need to deal with the specific risk materials (SRM). The RM of Canwood discovered a process to eliminate environmental damage of SRM waste and to minimize the risk of BSE.

THE PROCESS

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, along with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, provided the municipality with background information covering the processing, transportation and long-term effects of using the landfill as a suitable site for the permanent contaminant of SRM's.

A partnership was formed with a Saskatoon processing company, supplier of the SRM products, and Amec Earth Environmental was hired as a consultant. A public meeting was held on May 5, 2008, to discuss the expansion of the existing landfill facility to include the delivery and disposal of SRM. Presentations were made by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment. Those in attendance endorsed the project.

With project funding in place and a signed delivery contract, construction of the engineered landfill began in 2008. The SRM facility required the removal of 100,000 cubic metres to create a facility with an anticipated life span of seven years. The construction of the pit area was carried out by the RM of Canwood with a large portion of the clay removed being utilized for 175 miles of newly constructed municipal road, improving access to the waste management facility. Construction of the pit area is scheduled for the summer of 2009.

THE RESULTS

Upon completion, the waste facility will accept SRM waste which will be deposited into the pit. The site will be covered daily with a minimum of 60mm of suitable cover consisting of soil and straw. This project provides the RM of Canwood and surrounding communities an environmentally friendly method of disposing SRM while minimizing the risk of BSE to local producers.

LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Canwood sees the SRM facility as a means of expanding their waste management facility to the benefit of the Saskatchewan cattle industry. Upon completion, it will be the only facility of this type in Saskatchewan.