

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Meeting Type: Regular Commission Meeting

Location: Courthouse Annex Building, Loudon, Tennessee

Time: 6:00 pm EST

Chairman: Mr. Adam Waller

Attendees:

- **Commission Members Present:** Ms. Monty Ross, Mr. Gary Hendrix, Chairman Mr. Adam Waller, Mr. Gary Busch
 - **Commission Members Absent:** Mr. Larry Jameson (resigned), Mr. Lawson
 - **Legal Representation:** Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (via phone)
 - **Republic Services:** Mr. David Hollinshead, Mr. Stoddard Pickerell (Environmental Engineer)
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Public Comments

The commission heard from several community members regarding ongoing operational concerns and information access. Mr. Brian Viars continued his advocacy for resolution of the mud and road conditions, offering photographic evidence of large clay rocks and mud accumulation for review by both the commission chairman and legal counsel.

Public Input Received:

- **Mr. Brian Viars:** Requested legal matter updates; provided pictures of clay rocks and mud on roads for commission and legal review
- **Mr. Richard Anklin:** Inquired about digitization of records and closure planning access
- **Ms. Hunter:**
 - Noted missing facility inspection report in Republic's packet
 - Questioned Republic's contract compliance regarding operations information
 - Requested updates on vulture situation and camera status

Republic Environmental Engineer Mr. Stoddard Pickerell responded to closure planning inquiries by providing an update on progress toward year-end completion targets.

Legal Proceedings and Negotiations

Attorney Update on Negotiations

Commission legal representative Ms. Murphy provided a high-level overview of ongoing negotiations with Republic Services. The discussion revealed that at least ten top-line issues have been presented to

Republic's legal representatives, with the mud resolution being prominently featured among these concerns.

Negotiation Status:

- **Issues Identified:** Ten top-line items requiring resolution before moving forward
- **Mud Resolution:** Specifically identified as one of the primary concerns
- **Resolution Pathway:** All ten issues need agreed-upon resolution prior to advancement
- **Next Steps:** Detailed discussion meeting planned within the following week
- **Approach:** Commission committed to exhausting all negotiation options first

TDEC Communications and Leachate Issues

The commission addressed ongoing challenges with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regarding the Cell A leachate disconnect situation. Ms. Murphy's communication with TDEC revealed limited assistance from the regulatory body on the leachate findings.

TDEC Response Summary:

- **Position:** TDEC assumes both parties knew about the situation prior to joint submission
- **Assistance Level:** Minimal help provided; no additional findings noted
- **Regulatory Role:** TDEC serves as minimum enforcement and approving body
- **Commission Response:** Legal representative to write clarifying letter to TDEC
- **Operational Control:** Republic maintains all site operational controls and design responsibility
- **Information Flow:** Republic submits to commission for approval without providing all necessary information

Operational Updates and Infrastructure Projects

Cell A Leachate Management

The commission received detailed updates on leachate management improvements, including preventive maintenance protocols and engineering solutions. Commissioner Ms. Ross specifically inquired about the flushing protocols for Module A piping to ensure debris clearance every six months.

Leachate System Improvements:

- **Maintenance Protocol:** Module A pipe flushing incorporated into operations plan
- **Frequency Enhancement:** Republic budgeting for quarterly flushing (exceeding six-month requirement)
- **Long-term Health:** Quarterly schedule designed to ensure landfill longevity

- **Engineering Solutions:** Slip-lining and stent processes explained as comprehensive solutions
- **Flow Control:** Solutions specifically address outstanding leachate flow control concerns

Borrow Pit Development

Republic Systems Environmental Engineer Mr. Stoddard provided comprehensive updates on the new borrow pit project, including current status regarding areas, zoning compliance, and long-term usage planning.

Borrow Pit Status:

- **Zoning Compliance:** Areas and zoning requirements under review
- **Long-term Planning:** Usage projections and sustainability considerations addressed
- **County Requirements:** Updated zoning requirements for landfill operations noted
- **Follow-up Action:** Chairman Waller to provide updated county zoning information to Mr. Stoddard

Storm Water Management Timeline

Following previous commission requests for project timelines, Republic provided specific updates on storm water pond remediation activities. The comprehensive approach includes draining, soil sampling, and analysis procedures.

Storm Water Project Progress:

- **Current Activities:** Pond draining, soil sample collection, and laboratory analysis
- **Timeline:** Pond draining completion expected within two weeks
- **Methodology:** Systematic approach to environmental remediation and compliance

Administrative and Regulatory Matters

Bond Management Resolution

The commission addressed ongoing confusion regarding performance bond custody and requirements. Commission attorney Ms. Murphy continues working to clarify TDEC's position on bond management and timing requirements.

Bond Status Investigation:

- **TDEC Position:** Wanted bond in hand at time of expansion approval
- **Republic Position:** Bond not needed yet according to their assessment
- **Legal Investigation:** Attorney Murphy seeking clarification from TDEC on actual bond custody
- **Resolution Timeline:** Ongoing investigation with follow-up expected

Minor Modification Approval

The commission addressed TDEC's recommendation to focus on the original five issues submitted for minor modifications. This streamlined approach allows for quicker review and approval processes.

Modification Process:

- **TDEC Recommendation:** Stick with original five submitted issues
 - **Rationale:** Faster review and approval timeline
 - **Technical Details:** Approval includes fixing redline changes for gravel specifications on multiple pages
 - **Approval:** Motion approved 4-0 with technical corrections incorporated
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Communication Protocol and Information Management

Republic Information Flow Issues

Commission legal representative Ms. Murphy highlighted significant concerns regarding information flow from Republic to TDEC that bypasses or delays commission notification. This communication breakdown affects the commission's ability to provide proper oversight.

Communication Challenges:

- **Information Flow:** Republic communications to TDEC not copied to commission or received late
- **Current Status:** System not working effectively and requiring immediate attention
- **Impact:** Affects commission oversight and decision-making capabilities
- **Resolution Plan:** Further discussion scheduled for June meeting

Operations Reporting and Compliance

Commissioner Ms. Ross raised specific concerns about Republic's storage tank issues, prompting detailed responses from Environmental Engineer Mr. Stoddard regarding current actions and status updates.

Reporting Status Review:

- **Storage Tank Issues:** Commissioner concerns addressed with status updates
 - **Missing Reports:** Facility inspection report noted as missing from Republic's packet
 - **Contract Compliance:** Questions raised about Republic's adherence to information provision requirements
 - **Public Access:** Concerns about operations information inclusion in public packets
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Meeting Administration

April Minutes Approval

The commission reviewed and approved the April 17th, 2025 minutes with minor corrections. The approval process demonstrates the commission's attention to detail and accuracy in record-keeping.

Minutes Approval:

- **Motion:** Made by Ms. Ross to approve April 17th, 2025 minutes with one name change
- **Second:** Mr. Hendrix
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved 4-0 (2 members absent)
- **Corrections:** Single name change incorporated as requested

Planned Site Visit

Commission members coordinated a site visit to assess leachate management improvements and overall facility conditions. The visit represents proactive commission oversight and engagement.

Site Visit Coordination:

- **Date:** May 20th at 10:00 AM
- **Participants:** Multiple commissioners planned to attend
- **Purpose:** Assess leachate situation and overall facility status
- **Additional Attendee:** Check availability of Mr. Cline to attend

Action Items Table - May

Action Item - May	Responsible Party	Deadline/Timeline
Provide clay rock and mud photographs to commission	Mr. Brian Viars	ASAP
Write clarifying letter to TDEC regarding leachate findings	Ms. Elizabeth Murphy	Following week
Schedule detailed negotiation meeting with Republic	Ms. Elizabeth Murphy	After Memorial Day
Provide updated county zoning requirements for landfill	Chairman Waller	Before next meeting
Complete storm water pond draining and sampling	Republic/Mr. Stoddard	Within two weeks
Clarify bond custody status with TDEC	Ms. Elizabeth Murphy	Ongoing
Conduct commission site visit	Multiple Commissioners	May 20th, 10:00 AM
Check Mr. Cline's availability for site visit	Commission	Before May 20th
Implement quarterly Module A pipe flushing protocol	Republic/Mr. Stoddard	Ongoing

Action Item - May	Responsible Party	Deadline/Timeline
Address communication protocol issues with Republic	Commission	June meeting
Provide missing facility inspection report	Republic	Next meeting
Address storage tank status concerns	Republic/Mr. Stoddard	Ongoing

Next Meeting

Date: June 19th, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Loudon County Annex Building

Anticipated Discussion Items:

- Communication protocol establishment with Republic
- Updates on legal negotiations and TDEC clarifications
- Site visit findings and recommendations
- Storm water pond project completion status

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. by motion from Mr. Busch, seconded by Mr. Hendrix. Voice vote: 4-0 in favor, 2 absent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gary M. Busch, LCSWDC Secretary

Chairman: Adam Waller, Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Committee

Note: Full video of LCSWDC meeting available at: Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Meeting, May 15, 2025 (youtube.com)