June 30, 2022

Mr. Sanjay Thirunagari

Manager

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Division of Land Protection and Revitalization

P.O. Box 1105

Richmond, VA 23218

**RE: Update for the Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Management Authority**

**(CPRWMA) Solid Waste Planning Unit 5-Year Solid Waste Management Plan**

**Update.**

Dear Mr. Thirunagari:

I am writing in regards to our scheduled 5-year update of the CPRWMA’s Solid Waste Management Plan. In a letter dated November 19, 2021, you stated that our next 5 year update is due. The CPRWMA Board of Directors met on May 19, 2022 and approved this 5 year update.

I trust this letter and attachments will satisfy those requirements needed for our 5-year update. If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact me at (276) 883-5403.

Sincerely,

Toby F. Edwards

Executive Director

CPRWMA

Cc: Mr. Carl Rhea, CPRWMA Chair

Cc: Mr. Ron Peters, CPRWMA Vice Chair

**Attachment**

Reporting Requirements found in Section 9 VAC 20-130-120.C of the regulations.

1. Waste generation estimates are current in both quantities generated and composition. At the current rate of waste generation, Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell counties have seen slight increase in tonnages in the calendar year 2021-2022. As for the composition for all three localities, they are per the solid waste management plan.
2. The scheduled 20-year planning increments have been met per section 8, page 79-85 of the CPRWMA’s solid waste management plan. The authority has met or exceeded the 20-year planning increments outlined in the regional solid waste plan with the hiring of a regional litter prevention and recycling coordinator. In addition, Russell County is currently updating its convenience centers to manned compactor sites which should be completed in the next two to three years.
3. The projected 20-year waste management capacity remains available or the projects designed to meet the required capacity are on schedule. The authority and its member counties regional solid waste management plan is meeting the 20 year capacity and are on schedule.
4. Census data has shown a continual population decrease in all three member counties since the development of the regional solid waste management plan. This reduction in population is a result of the economic situation of the three counties. Many citizens are simply moving to where they can find employment. In both Buchanan and Dickenson Counties, coal jobs have been reduced heavily since the creation of the SWMP and it is reflected in the reduction of mine waste processed at both facilities.
5. The estimates of the solid waste generation from residential, commercial institution, industrial, construction, demolition, debris and other sources, including the amounts reused, recycled, recovered as a resource, incinerated and land filled. The Authority is on track with the SWMP solid waste generation estimates for the counties of Dickenson and Russell per section 4.2.1 pg 44. Buchanan County’s estimate indicated a much larger portion for Mine Waste and a smaller portion for Household Waste in 2021. Current waste stream data indicates that these two cateragories for Buchanan County are reversed-Household Waste is the largest generated source within this particular county.
6. Existing and planned solid waste collection, storage, treatment, transportation, disposal and other management facilities, their projected capacities, expected life and systems for their use are all on course with the plan. In 2010, the Authority completed a rehabilitation of all three of our facilities to extend their projected 20-year life span an additional 15+years. This was accomplished by upgrades to lighting systems, repair of tipping floors, new weighting scales, push wall extensions and new metal, new hoppers, ventilation systems, rubber cutting edges for loading equipment and new scale houses. Russell County is currently in the process of upgrading their collection system from unmanned convenience stations to manned compactor convenience centers for collection of both household waste and recyclables. This will be accomplished in the next two to three years.
7. All parties responsible for carrying out the 20-year projections are resolved to meet all obtainable milestones. As outlined in our plan, the Authority and its member counties have taken great strides in meeting citizen’s needs for proper waste disposal and recycling. In 2004, the member counties agreed to hire a regional recycling and litter prevention coordinator to ensure their meeting the recycling and litter prevention goals. Recycling in our SWMP unit has seen an increase in recycling (8% in 2003 to 21.2% in 2021). This increase in recycling is a direct result of the solid waste management plan and the counties investing resources in programs. In 2010, the member counties further demonstrated their resolve in securing a bond to extend the life of all three facilities.
8. The future need of the 20-year plan is the development of a regional recycling facility within the Authority’s area. Currently, the Authority is pursuing grants to study the feasibility of such a recycling facility. Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful with assistant from DEQ SW Office has formed a working group to look into a regional MRF.