

RESOLUTION REGARDING A SOLID WASTE FACILITY IN RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Whereas, Russell County, Virginia, joined with Buchanan and Dickenson Counties decades ago to form the Cumberland Plateau Solid Waste Authority (Authority) in order to lower the costs of building and maintaining solid waste facilities in each County; and

Whereas, these three counties, after closing older landfills, constructed transfer stations to handle their waste disposal needs; and

Whereas, these three counties have solid waste brought to their transfer stations by individuals, private and public entities and that waste is then loaded and compacted into trucks that haul thousands of tons per year to northeast Tennessee permitted landfills; and

Whereas, the costs of collecting, transferring, hauling and disposing of solid waste have increased dramatically since the Authority was first established; and

Whereas, environmental and engineering technology for establishing stable and low-polluting solid waste disposal facilities has improved greatly since the Authority was first formed; and

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality oversees the permitting of solid waste disposal facilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Virginia Waste Management Act (§ 10.1-1408.1) and Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (9VAC20-81 et seq.), all developed to assure protection of public health and the environment; and

Whereas, a private entity has presented a proposal to utilize the abandoned Moss Three Prep Plant site (the Moss Site) for a combination of job creating industrial park sites for Russell County and, in conjunction with this development, the same entity is willing to provide a solid waste disposal facility (Project) on the upper portion of the 1,800 acre site; and

Whereas, the Project would be classified as a sanitary landfill as defined by the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations, 9VAC20-81-10; and

Whereas, the proposed Project would save the Authority and its county members millions of public dollars each year in transportation and disposal costs, and bring

in much needed revenue for Russell County programs (e.g. education, job recruitment); and

Whereas, Russell County would be able to assess the private entity a host fee for the reception of solid waste from the Cumberland Plateau Region and any other sources needing state-of-the-art disposal capacity; and

Whereas, the private entity has retained an engineering firm experienced in solid waste disposal systems which has completed preliminary studies which appear to indicate (based on the information reviewed to date) that the Moss Site generally meets the siting criteria under the VSWMR for the development of the Project, although further evaluation is required for final determination; and

Whereas, if built, the Project would protect the Authority and its county members from the possible loss of access to solid waste sites in northeast Tennessee; and

Whereas, the Project will employ dozens of workers, enhance the ability to have profitable recycling capabilities, and potentially provide suitable land for solar energy as closure of each cell reaches grade; and

Whereas, Fortune 500 companies in the United States are committed to improved waste facilities, recycling and renewable energy, all of which can be available at the Moss Site; and

Whereas, the business tenants that occupy the new Moss industrial park will have very affordable waste disposal services, renewable energy and recycling services within one mile of their facilities, providing Russell County and its neighbors with a magnet for higher paying jobs; be it therefore

Resolved that the Russell County Board of Supervisors (the Board) is committed to:

1. Cooperate with the private entity and its engineers, legal counsel and other experts to proceed with the next steps necessary to fully vet the Project;
2. Adopt or amend necessary County ordinances to facilitate the vetting and pre-construction process of the Project; and
3. Consider new ordinances that enhance oversight by the County of the private entity consistent with all state and federal criteria for such facilities.

Additionally, the Board authorizes its County Administrator, County Attorney, IDA Executive Director and other related experts to cooperate with the private entity and its engineers and legal counsel to employ all due diligence to assess this potential job creating project and report the progress of this endeavor to the Board as needed.