

ENGAGEMENT: Meaningful Involvement

 Ridgeland, MS

BACKGROUND

2858 NORTH COUNTY LINE ROAD IN MADISON COUNTY WAS ENLISTED AS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL.

Located near both Jackson and Ridgeland city limits, the site sits between the existing Little Dixie Municipal Landfill and DDB Construction, LLC/Madison South Rubbish Landfill, Inc. It borders Hinds and Madison Counties, and the area surrounding the proposed site is zoned residential and industrial.

The MDEQ Permit Board considered the site in July 2012. It was denied due to the applicant's request for a 250-foot setback instead of the 500-foot setback, which would have provided the best benefit to residents in close proximity and visual screenings' adequacy. In January 2017, under new ownership, NCL Waste, LLC, North County Line Landfill submitted permits to MDEQ to develop a new municipal solid waste landfill. Due to new ownership and content differences, the permits were evaluated as a new and different project and the company's ability to comply with the state regulations.

The permits went to public notice on August 22, 2019. MDEQ's then Executive Director, Gary Rikard, extended the public notice until October 28, 2019. Over the 67 day comment period, the agency received numerous written and verbal comments opposing the permits' issuance.

On December 10, 2019, the Permit Board tabled the decision until January 14, 2020, to allow MDEQ staff an opportunity to respond to the board's additional questions. The staff provided written answers before the 14th. On January 14, 2020, the Permit Board moved not to take action on the permit applications until Madison County provided an updated needs assessment.

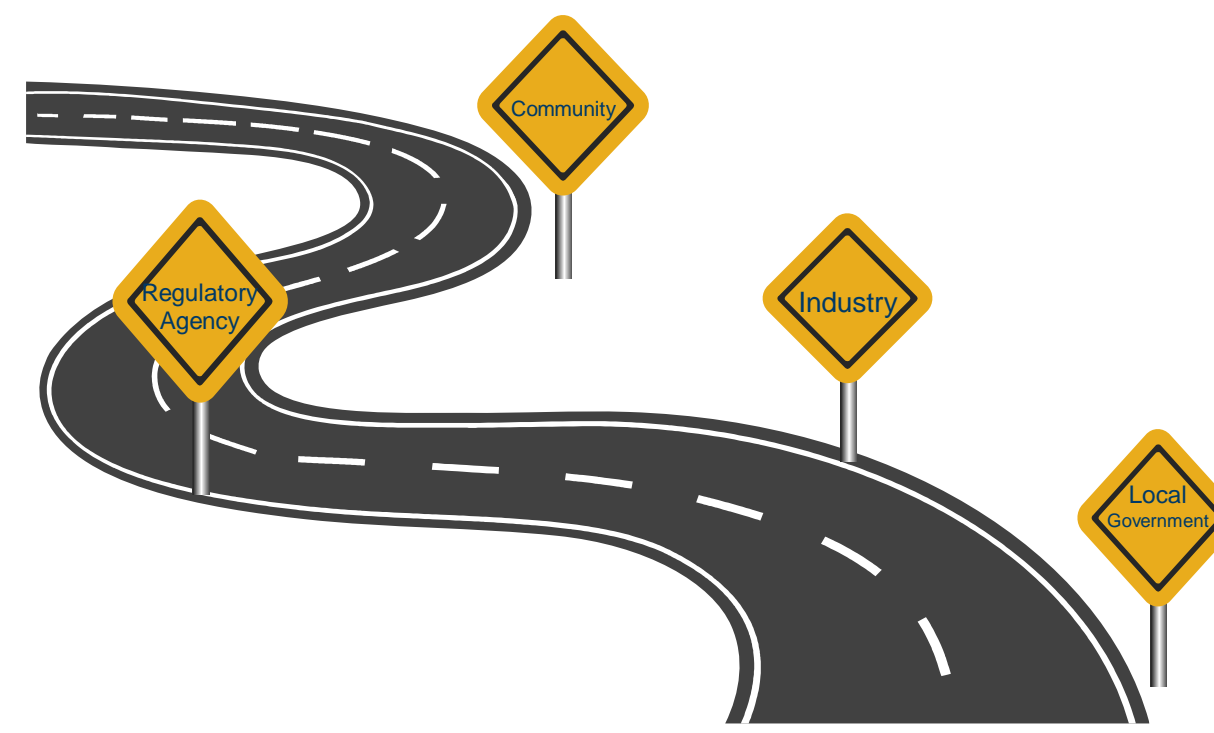
After years of debate that included annexation considerations and potential lawsuits, Mississippi lawmakers passed H.B. 949 in March 2021. The new legislation requires any waste plan to be approved through a ballot referendum. Days after the bill received legislative approval, Governor Tate Reeves sign it into law at Ridgeland's City Hall.

OPPOSITIONS

- The need for a 3rd landfill in Madison CO
- 250 feet Buffer Zone
- Negative impacts to residents and landowners in proximity (odor, noise, dust, run-off, rodents, bad roads, etc.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

MDEQ MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES BEGAN IN 2010



DATE	ACTIVITY
06/17/2010	Public Engagement Meeting •Conducted an expanded notification process for persons on the public hearing process and the process before the Permit Board
12/15/2011	Public Hearing
09/08/2016	NCL Engagement Team submitted draft Community Engagement Plan to MDEQ's Office of Community Engagement (OCE) Director
01/09/2017	OCE Director attended an NCL meeting
02/21/2017	Engagement Conducted by Industry / NCL Engagement Team hosted an availability Session
03/28/2017	NCL Landfill Reconnaissance Teams (Discussed preliminary observations at the proposed site)
04/18/2017	Team 1 Area Reconnaissance Team 1 (follow-up conducted April 27, 2017)
06/20/2018	Emailed the 404- permit application from the US Army Corps of Engineers and 401 Water Quality Certification application Public Notice to interested parties
01/2019	NCL Final Community Engagement Plan submitted
02/27/2019	North County Line Homeowners Association (NCLHA) Members and MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard and Staff (Requested on behalf of Gloria Tatum, Environmental Consultant, and Liaison)
03/14/2019	NCL Engagement Team submitted questions on Behalf of NCLHA

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE (CONT.)

DATE	ACTIVITY
08/22/2019-10/28/2019	Public Comment Period
08/23/2019	OCE staff conducts Community Assessment
09/05/2019	NCL Waste Meeting with MDEQ Staff requested on behalf of Gloria Tatum, NCL Consultant
09/26/2019	•Informal Public Information Session •Public Hearing
11/25/2019	OCE staff conducts Community Assessment
12/10/2019	Permit Board Meeting Regarding the Proposed NCL Waste LLC, North County Line Landfill Madison County
12/2019 – 01/2020	MDEQ's Staff written responses to Permit Board questions
01/14/2020	Permit Board Meeting Regarding the Proposed NCL Waste LLC, North County Line Landfill Madison County
03/2021	Mississippi's Legislators passed H.B. 949 Governor Tate Reeves sign the Bill into law.

QUICK FACTS

Meaningful Involvement

- Potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision.
- The concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process.
- The decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Public Outreach

- Extension of the public comment period beyond the normal 30-day period
- Pre-hearing Information Sessions
- Industry direct response to concerns