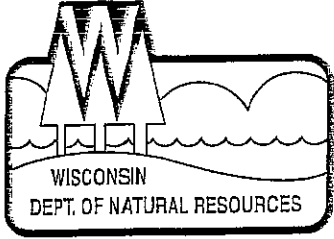


5242



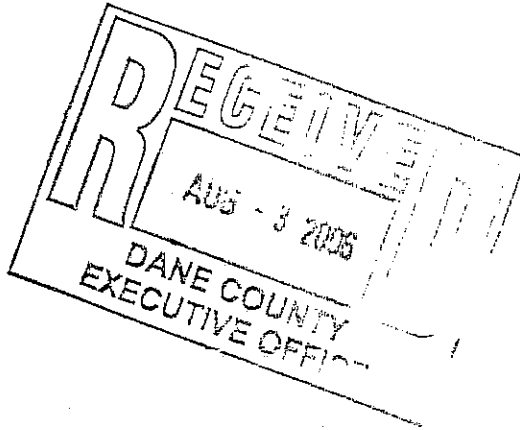
State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

July 27, 2006

Kathleen Falk
City County Building, Room 421
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703



Subject: Deer Carcass Disposal

Dear Kathleen:

Soon after the discovery of CWD in white-tailed deer in Wisconsin in February 2002, the Dane County Landfill graciously accepted approximately 500 white-tailed deer for disposal from what later became known as the Disease Eradication Zone (DEZ). We remain thankful for your cooperation in those early days. However, given all of the new challenges and questions related to fighting CWD in Wisconsin, Dane County subsequently chose to quit accepting deer carcasses, requiring the Department to resort to the much more costly disposal options of incineration and chemical digestion.

Given the body of knowledge accumulated since that time, the DNR is asking the County to reconsider the disposal of untested animals harvested from the Disease Eradication Zone. The waste stream would include butcher waste from hunters and meat processors, car-killed deer, heads from the Black Earth lab, and carcasses collected from hunters.

Since 2002, a great deal of scientific study has been dedicated to researching the fate and transport of the abnormally-folded prions associated with CWD. Please consider these points as you discuss whether or not to accept carcasses from the DEZ in the landfill.

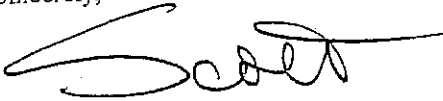
- Prions are hydrophobic and have been shown by UW researchers to bind tightly to mineral soil and organics. Ongoing research continues to support the tenants of our original risk assessment.
- Landfills are a natural filter that prevent movement of particulate matter which may have prions attached:
- The total amount of deer waste generated from the DEZ in a year (250-300 Tons) is less than the amount of waste disposed of in a day at the Dane County site
- The EPA has formally endorsed landfilling of carcasses and waste from CWD zones, as has the American Association of Vet Lab Diagnosticians, and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- Landfilling is being used by other states and provinces that have CWD in free-ranging cervids. The state of New York recently used the 2002 DNR/DHFS risk analysis to justify landfilling of carcasses in their state since the discovery of CWD. In addition, landfilling of carcasses is also allowed in Colorado, Illinois, and Wyoming, three states with a confirmed CWD presence.
- The public concerns about landfilling that we experienced in 2002 have not repeated themselves in other states or provinces.



- The media hype associated with CWD in 2002 has diminished considerably in the ensuing years. Witness the quiet passage of Act 286 which gave the department the authority to indemnify landfills that accept untested carcasses.
- The fact that Act 286 passed through the legislature and was signed by the Governor is testimony to the minimal risk associated with accepting carcasses in landfills.
- Landfilling, instead of chemically digesting or incinerating carcasses, is a better and more cost effective use of government funds, in this case, funds being redirected from our wildlife management program.

I know that in the past, you have been out at the Barneveld registration station cutting heads off with the best of them. That can do spirit and willingness to roll up your sleeves to help in this effort made a huge impact on the DNR staff that you worked with. I hope that you will once again roll up your sleeves to help us gain the approvals necessary to landfill carcasses in the Dane County landfill this fall. Such support for our CWD efforts will have a huge impact on our program, staff, and budgets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Hassett
Secretary