



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921  
Phone: 608/266-2178**

**FOR RELEASE:            July 20, 1999**

**CONTACT:                James Zellmer, Northeast Region 920-492-5931**

**SUBJECT:                Bioremediation proposed to treat contaminated soils at landfills**

**Green Bay, Wis.** -- A process known as bioremediation is an environmentally sound treatment method for Wisconsin landfill operators to use on soils that are contaminated with nonhazardous levels of petroleum compounds, according to a preliminary determination by the Department of Natural Resources.

Landfill operators must treat the soil using existing environmental controls at the landfill, including the system designed to collect and treat water that may come in contact with contaminated soils, according to James Zellmer, an environmental engineer with the DNR's Northeast Region. Soils treated with this method will then be used to cover waste disposed of in the landfill, Zellmer said.

"Using bioremediation to treat these soils will help us clean up sites with petroleum contaminated soil, and using the treated soil as landfill cover will reduce the amount of clean soil landfill operators need to cover waste at the end of each day," Zellmer said.

Bioremediation is a treatment that uses naturally occurring soil organisms to break down petroleum contamination in soil. The contaminated soils are typically removed during the cleanup of gas stations, fuel storage depots and other facilities that use or store petroleum compounds, Zellmer said.

"Treating the soils before using them as landfill cover reduces the amount of contaminants that are disposed of in landfills," Zellmer said. Bioremediation has proven to be a successful method of treating petroleum contamination in soil both in laboratory tests and in full-scale processing facilities in Wisconsin, he added.

Zellmer said operators of several solid waste landfills have already been authorized to use bioremediation at their facilities. The current proposal comes from Superior Hickory Meadows Landfill who recently submitted plans for treating soil at the Calumet County facility near Hilbert.

The department has made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement will not

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## Bioremediation Soil Processing – page 2

be needed for this proposal. Copies of the generic environmental assessment that led to the DNR's preliminary determination can be obtained from James Zellmer, Wisconsin DNR Northeast Region Service Center, 1125 N. Military, Box 10448, Green Bay, WI 54307, 920-492-5931.

Public comments, either written or oral, on the environmental assessment are welcome and must be submitted to Zellmer no later than 4:30 p.m. August 6, 1999.

DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s 1 11, Stats , and Ch NR 150, Adm Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s 1 11, Stats , and Ch NR 150, Wis Adm Code

Complete either A or B below

A EIS Process Not Required

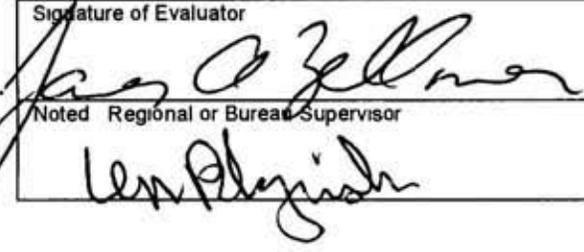
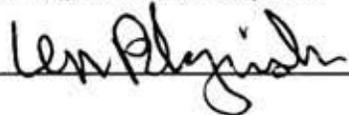


The attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project

B Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process



The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment

Signature of Evaluator 	Date Signed 8/9/99
Noted Regional or Bureau Supervisor 	Date Signed 8/10/99

Number of responses to news release or other notice 0

Add Discussion of Any Comments Received

Certified to be in compliance with WEPA	
Regional Director or Director of Bureau of Integrated Science Services (or designee) 	Date Signed 8/19/99

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed

For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227 52 and 227 53, Stats , you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227 42, Stats , you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review and does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review

Note Not all Department decisions respecting environmental impact, such as those involving solid waste or hazardous waste facilities under sections 144 43 to 144 47 and 144 60 to 144 74, Stats , are subject to the contested case hearing provisions of section 227 42, Stats

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227 48(2), Stats