



Jeb Bush  
Governor

# Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building  
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 4565  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs  
Secretary

November 13, 2003

Dear County Administrator:

As you may know, there is growing public interest about construction projects located near or over old, closed landfills in Florida. When properly designed and constructed, such projects can prove beneficial to local communities. Throughout Florida, old landfills have been successfully converted into a variety of uses such as parks, ball fields and golf courses for recreational use.

Other projects have encountered problems, however, where developers were unaware of the landfill or did not understand the difficulties associated with building on landfills. When constructing over old landfills, developers must consider potential exposure to landfill gas and foundation stability as underlying wastes settle over time.

As Florida's population continues to grow, it is likely that counties and municipalities will be under increasing pressures to expand development into old landfill areas. To help local governments make appropriate land use decisions, and to help developers understand the complexity of construction on landfills, the Department has prepared a document entitled, "Guidance for Disturbance and Use of Old Closed Landfills or Waste Disposal Areas in Florida." A copy of this document is available at [www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/solid\\_waste/pages/beneficialuse.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/solid_waste/pages/beneficialuse.htm) or a hard copy can be mailed to you upon request.

While the Department will continue providing technical assistance about the use of old landfills, we do not have the legal authority or resources to identify all old, potentially problematic landfills in the state. To try to prevent future problems, however, we are seeking your assistance to establish comprehensive data on the locations of old landfills for each county. Although the Department has some data on old landfills, cities and counties are more likely to have historical details of actual regional land uses. We are asking you to compile this information and make it available to the Department. We will then consolidate all available information into a statewide registry of landfills that will be made publicly accessible on the Internet.

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Following the Department's recommendations in the guidance document and compiling data on the locations of old landfills are positive first steps towards increasing awareness of these sites and improving land use decisions associated with them. We look forward to working with you on this effort.

If you have any questions, or require some additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Richard Tedder, Administrator of the Solid Waste Management Section at 850/245-8735.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Sole, Director  
Division of Waste Management

MWS/rt

cc: William Hinkley  
Directors of District Management  
Waste Program Administrators  
County Solid Waste Directors