A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 1E06 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Headquarters, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by: Phillip Davis, Chairman, who called the roll. Members present included Neil Washburn, Angela Sparks, Bill Burrough, Rickey Cole, Susan Speake, Rosemary Rogers, Randy Harper, Ken Nutt, and Jane Schwartz. Warren Atkins, William Wright, and Gussie Robinson were absent.

Bill Burrough made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting. Randy Harper seconded the motion. The minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Susan Speake began her report saying that the Department is still in the process of re-organizing. She passed out to the members an informational report from the Compliance Branch of the Office of Land Resources, which breaks down the violations recorded from inspectors at both Class 1 and Class 4 permitted landfills. In her discussion of the main points of this report, she put emphasis on the different categories of violations that have shown improvements. Next, she reported to the Committee that ADEQ received requests to provide oral tests at a Master Level Class in Jonesboro. Randy Harper reported the Committee decided a few years previously not to allow oral tests. This decision was made due to the necessity for a Master Level Operator’s need to read for operator safety, particularly when accepting and/or handling hazardous materials at their facility. Bill Burrough stated that it is big concern when class 1 facilities were involved and confirmed our decision for not allowing orals for the Master Level test.

Also, Susan mentioned the issue of taking social security off of the operator license applications and database. Randy Harper shared how the academy had condensed the social security identification with their database system. Susan concluded that she would check with Legal Division to insure this was not a statutory or regulatory requirement prior to soliciting social security information from operators in the future. Susan also reported that since January 2016 she had received several requests for additional training for Illegal Dumps Control Officers (IDCOs).
Mr. Phil Jackson of Carroll County reported that his county recently lost their IDCO and wanted to obtain an IDCO license for one of his existing employees. Under the current schedule, this was not possible since there was only one basic training class available per year. After a helpful discussion from the committee, it was her suggestion to allow the employee to use as their IDCO “in training” --where they work-- with the County Sheriff and the ADEQ field inspector to determine the correct methods in investigating illegal dump complaints. 1) If the employee does find a situation in which there is an illegal dump request, the Sheriff’s office could issue the citation to the violator; 2) Register and attend the Illegal Dump Control Officer Training with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy.

In closing her report, she asked if anyone had any feedback from the recent SWANA Arkansas Chapter meeting. Rosemary said they discussed the distribution of waste tire fees to the Solid Waste Districts and how the formula affected the fees. The subject of raising the fees was being discussed.

Randy Harper presented the Academy report by saying that their new Chancellor, Dr. Jason Morrison, will be starting in January. Ken Nutt gave his training report: stating that from 7/1/2016 – 9/30/16, there were a total of 253 contact hours for total 114 enrollments. And a Solid Waste Total of 1312 contact hours with 1077 enrolled students.

The next meeting date was set for February 23rd, at 10:30 a.m.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bill Burrough to adjourn, and seconded by Randy Harper. The meeting was adjourned.

Phillip Davis, Chairman