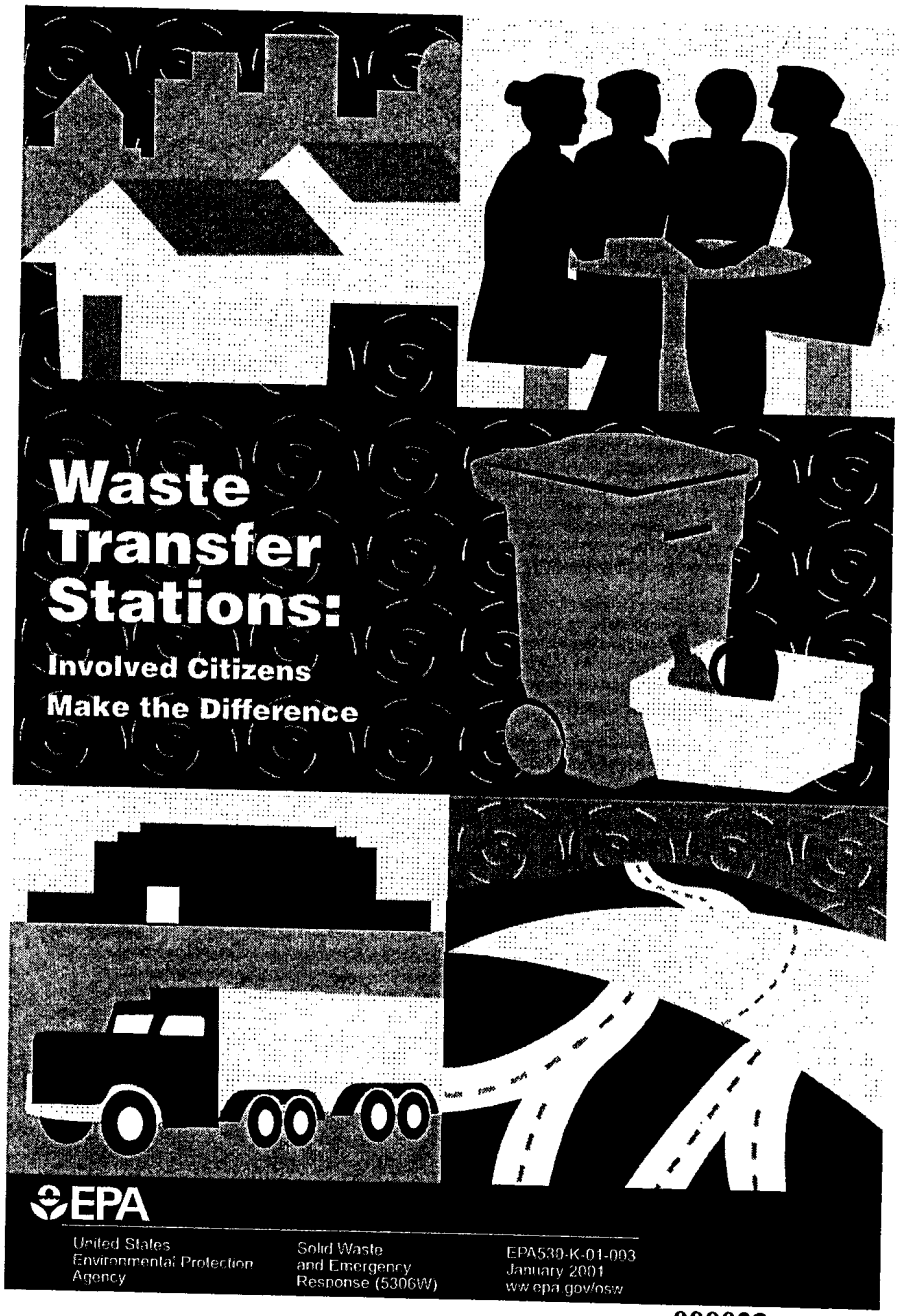

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♲ Printed on paper that contains at least 30 percent postconsumer fiber.

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Noise

Heavy truck traffic and the operation of heavy-duty facility equipment (e.g., conveyors and front-end loaders) are the primary sources of noise from a transfer station. Design and operating practices that help reduce noise include:

- Confining noisy activities within buildings or other enclosures as much as possible.
- Using landscaping, sound barriers, and earth berms to absorb exterior noise.
- Arranging the site so that traffic flows are not adjacent to properties that are sensitive to noise.
- Providing setback distances, called buffer zones, to separate noisy activities from adjacent land uses.
- Conducting activities that generate the most amount of noise during the day.

Odor

Garbage, particularly food waste and grass, has a high potential for odor. Proper facility design can significantly reduce odor problems. Carefully positioning the building and its doorways with respect to neighbors is a good first step. At the transfer building itself, exhaust fans with air filters and rooftop exhaust vents can further reduce off-site odor impacts.

Some of the operating procedures that can help reduce odors include:

- "First-in, first-out" waste handling practices that keep waste on site only for short periods of time.
- Removing all waste from the tipping floor or pit by the end of each operating day so that these surfaces can be swept clean and washed down.
- "Good housekeeping" measures, including regular cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and equipment that come into contact with waste.
- Water misting and/or deodorizing systems.

Rodents and Birds

Rodents and birds can be a nuisance and a potential health concern at waste transfer stations, but few basic design and operational elements can control them. For instance, good housekeeping practices are a simple and effective means of minimizing their presence. These practices include removing all waste delivered to the facility by the end of each day, and cleaning the receiving floor daily (small, rural facilities may require several days to accumulate a full container of waste for transport). Receiving waste only within an enclosed structure and otherwise preventing litter can reduce the presence of birds. If problems persist in the vicinity, baiting and trapping can control rodents.

When a public hearing was held to announce the siting of a proposed waste transfer station in Auburn, New Hampshire, the town's citizens wanted to make sure their concerns would be addressed. Residents raised a number of issues about potential odor, noise, and truck traffic from the transfer station, which would consolidate waste from Manchester, New Hampshire, and surrounding communities, including Auburn. In addition, town officials voiced concerns about storm-water runoff from the transfer station.

A private firm specializing in transfer stations and other waste management services listened to the issues raised at the hearing. The company showed its willingness to address these concerns by proposing changes to the transfer station's design and operating plans. Modifications included:

- Reorienting the transfer station building so warning alarms from trucks backing up would be directed away from residential areas.
- Closing the transfer station doors to reduce odor whenever trucks are not delivering waste.
- Providing a trash drop-off area apart from commercial vehicles and extending operating hours to make site use more convenient for residents.
- Setting up a gated fence around the site to maximize security and safety.

Town officials also hired a consultant to address additional citizen concerns. The company worked with the consultant to develop methods for safely managing storm-water runoff from the transfer station. The revised design included new drainage structures and roadway modifications. As a final condition for receiving a transfer station permit, the company developed an operating manual that employees will be required to follow. Town officials reviewed the operating manual and after additional modifications, the town approved the transfer station.