



CITY OF AUSTIN

P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

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CITY MANAGER



Austin-Travis County Health Department  
Environmental Health Services Division  
1313 Sabine Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

April 2, 1973



(5)

Mr. Pat R. Canion  
1819 Rutland Drive  
Austin, Texas 78758

Dear Mr. Canion:

Recently, Rod Moe and Bob Kent of this Department visited with County Commissioner David Samuelson, concerning leachate problems at the Travis County sanitary landfill on Highway 290. At the conclusion of our discussion, Mr. Samuelson suggested we write you a letter outlining the problem and forward a copy to Judge Watson.

The landfill on Highway 290 East, which you have a contract with the County to operate, has several problems that violate State regulations. Lack of daily cover and inadequate final cover are two of the major problems. Also, an inspection on March 5, 1973, indicated there is leachate from the landfill entering the small creek which runs through the landfill site.

We feel the leachate is formed because of inadequate cover and also because the refuse is near the creek and a water pollution hazard is incurred. This problem can also occur where the waste is presently being unloaded.

Personnel of this Department will be happy to work with you in correcting the current leachate problem and also help develop methods to prevent the occurrence of leachate in the future. Please call us if you need any assistance.

Respectfully,

*Fred Rodgers*

Fred Rodgers, P.E.  
Director  
Environmental Health Service

FR:ss

cc: Judge J.H. Watson  
David Samuelson, County Commissioner  
David Houston, State Health Dept.

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GORDON FULCHER  
CHAIRMAN  
LESTER CLARK  
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## TEXAS WATER QUALITY BOARD



314 WEST 11TH STREET 78701  
P.O. BOX 13246 CAPITOL STATION 78711  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

May 31, 1973

CLAYTON T. GARRISON  
JIM C. LANGDON  
J. E. PEAVY, MD  
HUGH C. YANTIS, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PH. 475-2651  
A.C. 512



RE: Travis County Dump on  
U. S. 290

J. E. Peavy, M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Texas State Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

Attention: Mr. G. R. Herzik, Jr., P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Health

Dear Doctor Peavy:

On April 24, 1973, our field representative, Mr. John Young, and Mr. Bob Kent, of the Austin-Travis County Health Department, made a joint inspection of the Travis County Dump located approximately ten (10) miles east of Austin on U. S. 290. Due to the lack of affirmative action by the county toward adequate water pollution control at this site, Mr. Kent requested that a representative from this agency accompany him on his inspection.

Mr. Young reports that municipal solid waste was piled up to and at some points into a small tributary of Walnut Creek. Also, Mr. Young observed several seeps from the abandoned part of the dump entering the creek. The seepage was black, odorous, and covered with flies. In addition, Mr. Young noted that erosion by runoff had uncovered previously buried trash. Mr. Young recorded these observations on 35 mm slides. Please find the slides enclosed.

GORDON FULCHER  
CHAIRMAN  
LESTER CLARK  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DOUG TOOLE  
HARRY P. BURLEIGH

*Dr. John Young*

**TEXAS WATER QUALITY BOARD**

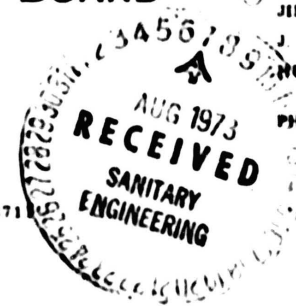


314 WEST 11TH STREET 78701  
P.O. BOX 13246 CAPITOL STATION 78711  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

August 1, 1973

(10C)

CLAYTON T. GARRISON  
JIM C. LANGDON  
J. E. PEAVY, MD  
HUGH C. YANTIS, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PH. 475-2651  
A.C. 512



RE: Travis County Solid Waste  
Disposal Site on U.S. 290

J. E. Peavy, M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Texas State Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

Attention: Mr. G. R. Herzik, Jr., P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Health

Dear Doctor Peavy:

On July 3, 1973, Mr. John Young, our district representative, conducted a joint inspection of the Travis County solid waste disposal site about ten miles east of Austin with Mr. Jimmy Dickens, Mr. Sam Leggott, and Mr. Charles Davis of your agency, Mr. Bob Kent of the Austin-Travis County Health Department, and Mr. David Samuelson, Precinct 1 Commissioner.

Mr. Young has submitted a report to this office of his inspection of the solid waste disposal site together with his recommendations to correct the deficiencies noted. As requested, we are forwarding his findings and recommendations to you in order that this information may be included with the Health Department's recommendations which will be presented to the County.

If we can assist you further, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

*Hugh C. Yantis, Jr.*  
Hugh C. Yantis, Jr.  
Executive Director

ccs: John V. Sessums, Jr., M.D., Director  
Austin-Travis County Health Department  
The Honorable J. H. Watson, Travis County Judge  
Mr. David Samuelson, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Mr. Fred Rodgers, Environmental Health Services  
Austin-Travis County Health Department  
Texas Water Quality Board District 3

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TEXAS WATER QUALITY BOARD  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

TO: John Latchford, Director, Field Operations  
FROM: John Young, Biologist, District 3  
SUBJECT: Travis County Dump - US 290 East



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FIELD OPERATIONS			
Act.	Info.	Sec.	Init.
TSDH		Dir.	
		F. Sup.	act
		S. R. S.	
		Sp. Stud.	

On July 3, 1973, the writer met with Mr. Jimmy Dickens, Mr. Sam Leggott, and Mr. Charles Davis, of the State Health Department, and Mr. Bob Kent, Austin-Travis County Health Department. A joint inspection was then made of the Travis County dump located approximately 10 miles east of Austin on US 290. Mr. David Samuelson, Commissioner, Pct. 1, met the inspection party in company with a Mr. Canion (first name unknown) who operates the dump under contract from the county.

As reported in the previous memorandum, this dump is not operated as a trench and fill operation. The terrain is hilly with numerous dry gullies or draws. Trash is piled into these or across the hillside and compacted with a trash compactor. On both dates the writer was present, the trash appeared to be piled too high to be effectively compacted. Also the manner in which it was being deposited did not appear conducive to effective compacting and covering. On this date cover was being applied to the trash. In addition to the trash compactor, a bulldozer and a scraper were being used. Previously, only the compactor was observed in use. It might be mentioned that although the writer has officially inspected this dump only twice, the operation has been observed many times since February, 1973, from the Industrial Waste Materials Management site adjacent to the county dump. The manner in which trash is deposited is illustrated in Sketch "A". Working from the upper end, trash is piled into a draw and worked outward until a sizeable cliff of garbage is formed. There is, then, no way in which the end can be adequately covered with compacted earth.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



This end will always be subject to erosion due to the lack of compaction and the steep slope. Not only has trash been placed in draws but also up to the banks of a tributary to Walnut Creek. Mr. Kent had requested several months ago that a dike be placed around the operation to prevent runoff or seepage from the dump from entering the creek. Sketch "B" illustrates the current status of this dike. Much of the cover on the trash immediately east of the creek had been covered immediately prior to the inspection and was still burning. The cover was not adequately compacted, however, this area will still receive trash. The hill side west of the creek was also inspected. Trash uncovered by erosion was observed as well as several seeps. These seeps were not as bad as the seeps observed during the previous inspection. Some burned out hulls of appliances were piled adjacent to the creek with rust colored seepage running into the creek. Overall, the dump looked better than on April 24, 1973, however, in the writer's opinion, a threat of stream pollution still exists.

Based on these findings, the writer recommends the following:


1. <sup>In addition</sup> All areas currently receiving trash <sup>be</sup> diked to an adequate height with compacted clay downslope in order to prevent contaminated runoff and seepage from entering nearby streams.
2. Trash should be deposited and earth cover applied in a manner to allow compaction of all cover, especially on the downslope end.
3. The final slope of the filled areas should be such that erosion of the cover will not occur. In this respect, sodding and whatever terracing deemed necessary should be done immediately after an area is abandoned.


4. The banks of the creek flowing through the dump should be cleaned of exposed trash, reworked, and compacted to insure erosion by the creek will not expose additional trash.
5. Additional cover should be applied to the abandoned slope west of the creek to halt the seepage and erosion. This should be sodded immediately.
6. In the future, greater care must be exercised to see that trash is not deposited in a manner which would present a threat to State Waters.

Please submit these recommendations to the State Health Department staff through proper channels in order that they may be incorporated into the Health Department's list of recommendations to be presented to the county.

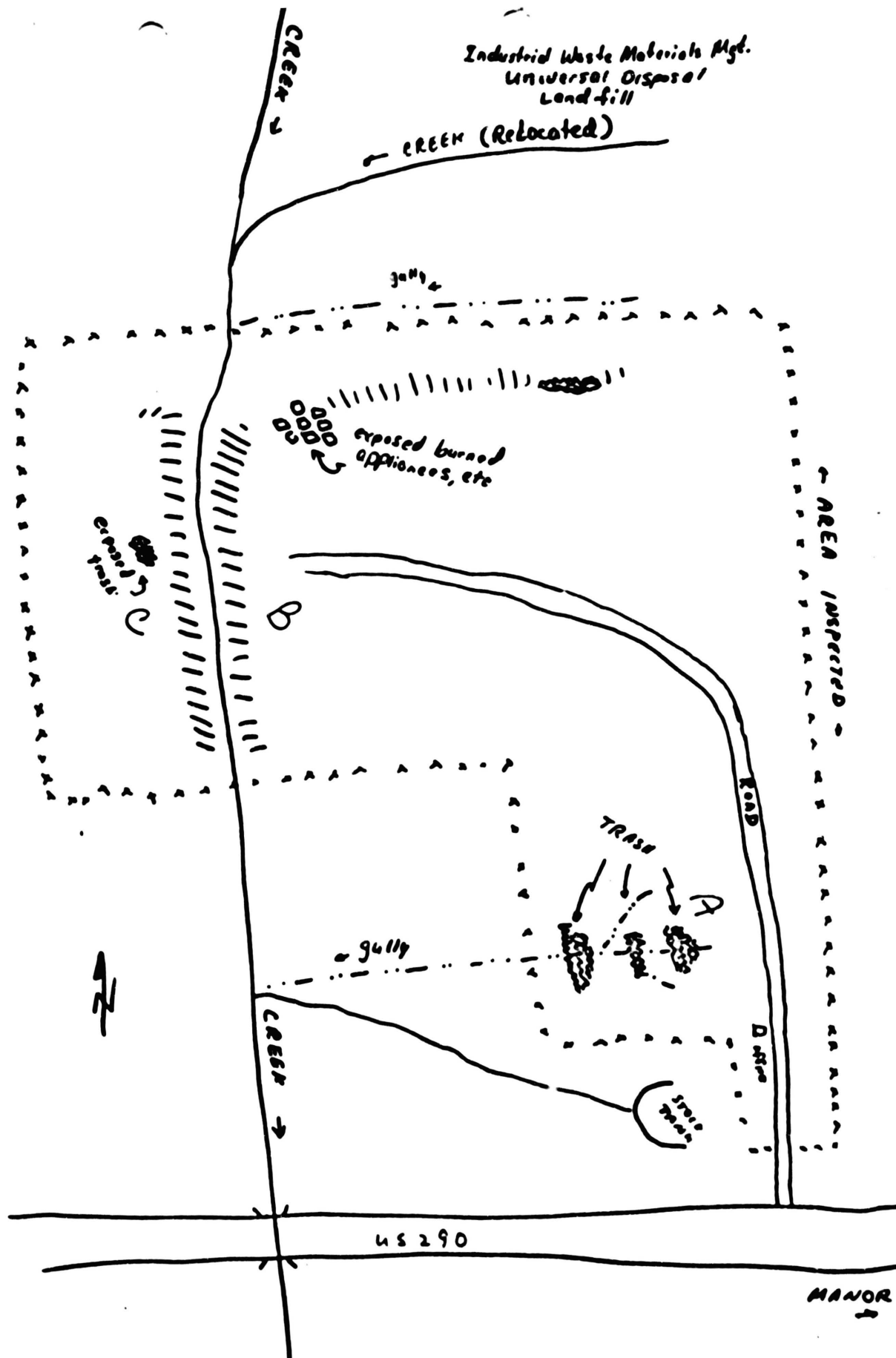
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Attachments

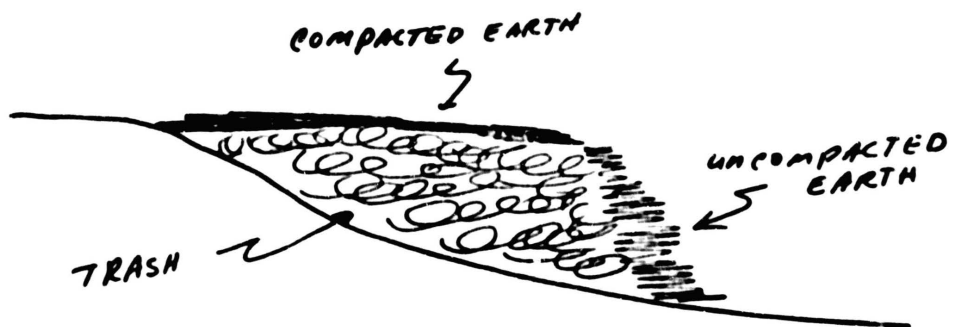
Approved 

Signed 

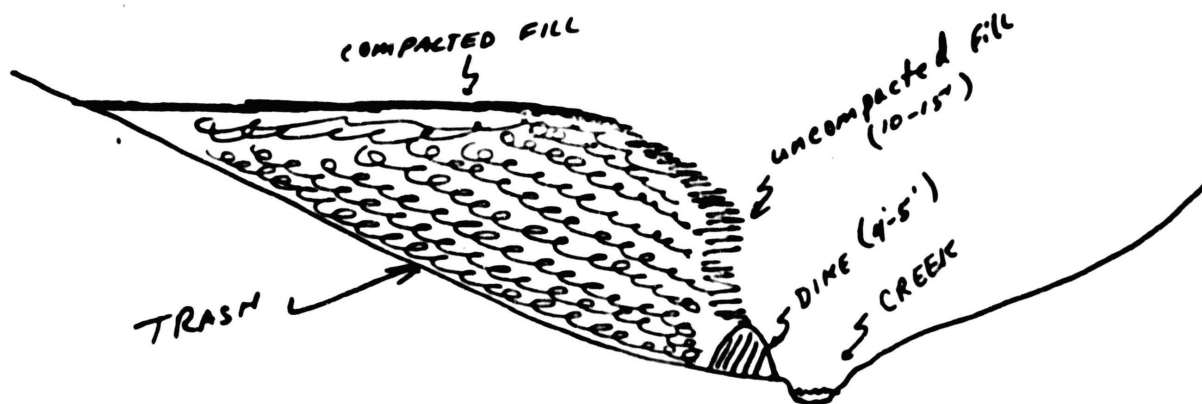
Date July 13, 1973



TRAVIS COUNTY DUMP  
JULY 3, 1973 (NOT TO SCALE)



SKETCH "A"



SKETCH "B"

TRAVIS COUNTY DUMP  
July 3, 1973