

## T-5.1 SWANA TECHNICAL POLICY

### IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

#### Policy

The Solid Waste Association of North America supports the principle of free movement of municipal solid waste across jurisdictional boundaries as an article of commerce irrespective of origin, subject to traditional state, provincial and local government responsibilities listed below.

#### Position

##### Definitions

The shipment of municipal solid waste (MSW) across jurisdictional boundaries for purposes of treatment, recycling, recovery or disposal has become very prevalent in North America. Decisions on the importation and exportation of municipal solid waste is an issue that will be faced by many governmental entities. This policy establishes SWANA's position on the issue of importation and exportation of MSW.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will be used:

- **Importation** -- The receipt of municipal solid waste at a public or private owned facility from a source outside the jurisdiction in which the receiving facility is sited
- **Exportation** -- The shipment of municipal solid waste from a jurisdiction to a public or private owned facility in another jurisdiction

The term "jurisdiction", as used in relationship to a local government institution, means the geographical or territorial limits in which state or provincial governments empower a local government institution to exercise their authority.

##### Responsibilities of State and Provincial Governments

With respect to solid waste importation and exportation across jurisdictional boundaries, state and provincial governments should:

1. Enact laws and promulgate regulations for solid waste management that protect the environment and provide for public health, welfare and safety. These include requirements for financial responsibility for environmental consequences and requirements to deal with transportation-related impacts.
2. Develop and implement state, provincial, or regional solid waste management plans that provide for the safe and environmentally sound management of solid waste. These plans should specify the size, type, capacity and location of solid waste transfer, recycling, treatment and disposal facilities.

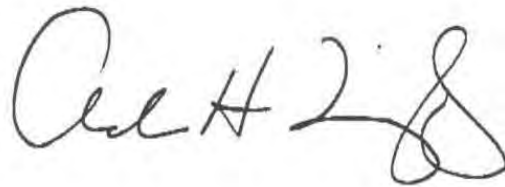
3. Develop and implement state and provincial economic development plans that address issues such as siting and location of solid waste management facilities and projects so they are consistent and compatible with resources important for economic development (e.g. historical sites and recreation areas)
4. Develop and implement a permitting process that carries out state and provincial laws, regulations and plans, and provides for public participation that allows affected parties and impacted communities to voice their interests
5. Delegate authority to local governments to plan, develop, implement and approve solid waste management facilities and projects

### **Responsibilities of Local Governments**

With respect to solid waste importation and exportation across jurisdictional boundaries, local governments should:

1. Plan, develop, construct, operate, approve and/or contract for solid waste management facilities and projects that protect the environment, and public health, safety and welfare
2. Negotiate and enter into host agreements, including fees and other terms and conditions, with owners and operators of solid waste management facilities and projects
3. Establish local zoning and land-use requirements that mitigate the impacts of transport, handling and disposal of solid waste

Approved by the Executive Committee on October 10, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Quigley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Quigley  
International Secretary  
Dated October 10, 2003