



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Franklin Location Identified as Potential New Ash Landfill Site Final Selection Due in About One Year**

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) today announced it has narrowed its search for a new ash landfill to a roughly 350-acre site off of Route 32 in Franklin, behind the former Franklin Farms property. A final selection will be made in about one year, following thorough environmental investigation to confirm the site meets all the requirements of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for ash landfills.

“We conducted an exhaustive examination of 77 potential sites throughout Connecticut and have determined that this site appears to best meet the DEP’s criteria,” said Thomas D. Kirk, president of CRRA. “Now that we have narrowed the search down, though, we need to conduct on-site environmental investigations. This will involve a full host of surface and subsurface investigations that will give us a more accurate picture of whether the site is appropriate for use as an ash landfill. This process should take about a year.”

Kirk emphasized that Franklin site will not be chosen as the *definite* location of the new ash landfill until the environmental tests are concluded. However, if it is chosen as the definite site then, as the host community, Franklin will be paid many millions of dollars by CRRA, depending on the amount of ash the facility receives over the 30-year life of the ash landfill. Total payments could exceed \$1.5 million annually, and \$45 million over the life of the ash landfill.

He explained that the search for a new ash landfill is predicated on the fact that the existing ash landfill in Hartford is nearing capacity. It will stop receiving ash in late 2008, necessitating the search for a replacement ash landfill.

“An ash landfill is different than a solid-waste landfill that most people envision,” Kirk said.

“The ash is the residue from the process of turning trash into electricity at the waste-to-energy plants in Connecticut. CRRA manages trash from cities and towns from throughout Connecticut, burning it to generate energy, which is then sold to electric companies to help power homes, schools, hospitals and businesses across the state,” said Kirk. “The ash is moist and has the consistency of damp cement, so it doesn’t blow around in the wind. It also contains no food substances, so birds, rats and other pests don’t scavenge at an ash landfill like they would at a solid-waste landfill. There is little or no odor, so no one offsite will smell the ash. And because the ash doesn’t decompose like solid waste no landfill gas is produced.”

## **CRRA ash landfill site**

**March 26, 2008**

**Page 2**

CRRA has already mailed a 12-page brochure explaining the search for the new ash landfill site to all Franklin residents. These should be received within several days.

“This brochure explains the state-of-the-art technology we’ll use to build this ash landfill and will introduce them to the issues involved and, more importantly, the benefits that this ash landfill will bring to Franklin,” Kirk said.

A special Web site, <http://www.ctsafeashlandfill.com>, provides additional information as well as a mechanism for residents and business owners to ask questions about the search for and construction of the ash landfill. In addition, CRRA personnel will conduct public information meetings at various times during the year-long site evaluation process.

The brochure and Web site will explain to Franklin residents the extensive safeguards that will be included in the construction of the ash landfill.

“Although DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have strict requirements for constructing an ash landfill, our plans are to go even beyond those strict standards, so we’ll provide an even greater measure of protection for the environment and public health,” Kirk noted.

CRRA’s proposed safeguards include seven layers of different materials within the liner system. These materials have been proven by decades of use to be a safe and effective means of containment.

“Locating the ash landfill in Connecticut will allow us handle our state’s waste in an environmentally sensitive manner while also providing financial benefit to the host community,” Kirk said. “We’ll help keep Connecticut dollars in Connecticut.”

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for - and in - the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling education programs through its Trash Museum in Hartford and Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>. Internet users can also discuss CRRA at its blog, <http://crra-blog.blogspot.com>.