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## **APPENDIX D**

### **Draft Beneficial Use Position, December 2003**



# APPENDIX D

## DRAFT GAP BENEFICIAL USE PRINCIPLES AND RULES

9 DECEMBER, 2003

This paper documents the status of GAP Team discussions regarding the definition of “beneficial use” as of December, 2003. It incorporates various suggestions sent to me by GAP Team members from different parts of the country.

### 1. Beneficial Use Within GAP

Beneficial use refers to a situation where:

- a material is recovered from the waste stream and
- is directed to a “beneficial use” which is not closed loop recycling.

### 2. Beneficial Use Within Landfill Boundaries – Criteria to Count as Diversion in GAP

Beneficial use of recovered materials within a landfill site is considered diversion where the following criteria are met:

**Criterion #1: A quantity of material that is “separate and identifiable” displaces another type of material that is purchased for a specific use at a landfill**

Substituting compost for purchased landfill cover or using glass for road construction instead of aggregate are two examples which should be counted as diversion. Some concern was expressed that this gives municipalities who own their own landfills more diversion options, but this is the reality of the variations among municipalities.

**Criterion #2: The material has been processed in some way**

This criterion is used in Nova Scotia to distinguish material which can be counted as diversion (although in Nova Scotia it generally applies mostly to C&D material which must be crushed to 6” size). Examples include wood which is chipped or glass which is crushed to a particular size, tires which are shredded, etc. Contaminated soil is not generally a residential waste and is therefore out of the scope of this definition.

**Criterion #3: The material must NOT be destined for disposal in the landfill anyway.**

Using incinerator ash as alternative cover is likely good landfill management. However, this practice does nothing to encourage diversion or avoid disposal. The ash is double-counted if the alternative daily cover use was considered diversion. The material going to the incinerator has already been counted as disposal.

**Criterion #4: Other technical and economic options are not viable**

This covers the situation where the municipality could have used the material technically, and also economically, in other applications but chose not to do so.

### 3. Specific Beneficial Use and Disposal Examples Within GAP

GAP Team discussions on various examples have agreed that:

- **Incinerator ash used as landfill cover** is not diversion, as the material has already been counted once as disposal when it went into the incinerator in the first place.
- **Incinerator ash used as roadbed material or feedstock to new manufacturing** is not counted as diversion because it has already been counted as disposal when it entered the incinerator.
- **Poor quality compost used as final landfill cover** is diversion as this material has been processed already. The amount used should not be greater than if the material were purchased. It may be used at the landfill because paying markets can not be found, or it was the most economical option for the site;
- **Good quality compost used as final landfill cover** is considered diversion given the definition put forward by Ontario that if it could be used at an alternative location, it is legitimate diversion.
- **Crushed glass used for road construction at landfills** is considered “reuse” by some GAP team members (counting towards diversion). It also meets the criterion of having been processed in some way (a requirement to be counted as diversion). It contributes to “landfill conservation” by reserving landfill space.
- **Crushed glass used for cover at landfills** is not considered diversion by the Manitoba Product Stewardship Council when allocating diversion grants to municipalities;
- **Crushed glass as aggregate substitute in construction projects outside landfill** is considered diversion by definitions used in Ontario (up to 15% OPSS) and BC;
- **Shredded tires as road stabilization material within landfill** is considered diversion as the tires have been processed, and the shredded tire material has good engineering and drainage properties for this purpose;
- **Ground wood or mulch used as landscaping material within the landfill** is diversion because the material has been processed<sup>1</sup>
- **Ground wood or mulch to rehabilitate city properties outside the landfill** is considered diversion, even though if the City were to purchase material, it might purchase a smaller amount
- **Ground wood as final cover for landfill** is considered diversion because the material has been processed, and it displaces the need to purchase cover material;
- **Ground wood or mulch for maintenance of city properties outside of landfill** is considered diversion as long as the amount used is the same as when the material is purchased;

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<sup>1</sup> Durham Ontario has used large amounts of this material at a rural landfill

- **C&D material used for landfill roads or cover material.** Most or all C&D material is from commercial sources. GAP only addresses material from residential sources therefore this use is not counted as diversion in Residential GAP.

Following a GAP Team meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2003, there was agreement among the GAP Team to modify some of the above positions based on additional research, and also feedback from various GAP team members.