



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

*Solid Waste Disposal and Scrap Tire Program
Activities*

*Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
Department of Environmental Quality*

Report Number:
76-141-04

Released:
April 2005

The Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD) administers the Solid Waste and Scrap Tire Programs as prevention programs to protect the environment and the public's health. WHMD is responsible for the issuance of construction permits and operating licenses for solid waste disposal facilities and registrations for scrap tire haulers and collection sites. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reported that 62.6 million cubic yards of solid waste was disposed of in Michigan landfills in fiscal year 2002-03 and that Michigan generates approximately 9 million scrap tires each year.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of WHMD's permitting and licensing processes for solid waste disposal facilities.

Audit Conclusion:

WHMD's permitting and licensing processes for solid waste disposal facilities were generally effective.

Reportable Condition:

WHMD did not ensure that solid waste disposal facilities obtained sufficient financial assurance prior to obtaining their annual operating licenses. Also, WHMD did not verify that landfill owners or operators deposited the correct amounts into their perpetual care fund accounts. (Finding 1)

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of WHMD's efforts to evaluate the performance of its Solid Waste and Scrap Tire Programs.

Audit Conclusion:

WHMD was generally effective in its efforts to evaluate the performance of its Solid Waste and Scrap Tire Programs.

Reportable Conditions:

WHMD should continue its efforts to fully develop a continuous quality improvement process for monitoring and improving program effectiveness in protecting the environment and the public's health through proper management of solid waste (Finding 2).

WHMD did not ensure that district staff entered complete and accurate performance data into the Waste Data System (WDS) in a timely manner and maintained detailed supporting records (Finding 3).

WHMD did not ensure that WDS contained complete, accurate, and current data relating to scrap tire inventories. In addition, WHMD did not identify its pre-1991 scrap tire inventory on WDS. (Finding 4)

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of WHMD's long-term planning for solid waste disposal.

Audit Conclusion:

WHMD's long-term planning for solid waste disposal was generally effective. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of WHMD's registration process for scrap tire haulers and collection sites and monitoring efforts at potential collection sites.

Audit Conclusion:

WHMD's registration process for scrap tire haulers and collection sites and monitoring efforts at potential collection sites were generally effective.

Reportable Condition:

District staff did not inspect scrap tire haulers prior to the issuance of the annual registrations, in accordance with established procedures (Finding 5).

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Audit Objective:

To assess WHMD's effectiveness in safeguarding cash receipts at district offices.

Audit Conclusion:

WHMD was generally effective in safeguarding cash receipts at district offices.

Reportable Condition:

WHMD did not comply with State procedures for proper management control over cash receipts for solid waste construction permit and operating license fees (Finding 6).

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Agency Response:

Our audit report includes 6 findings and 8 corresponding recommendations. WHMD's preliminary response indicated that it agreed with 5 of the recommendations and partially agreed with 3 of the recommendations.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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