

MINUTES
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council
January 8, 2026 Regular Meeting
Department of Environmental Quality

Official SWMAC Approval
at April 16, 2026 meeting

Notice of Public Meeting - The Solid Waste Management Advisory Council convened for its Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 8, 2026, in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, Section 311 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Notice of Regular Meeting was filed to the Office of the Secretary of State on December 3, 2025. Agendas were posted on the entrance doors at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Central Office in Oklahoma City at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. Mr. Jim Linn, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Quiana Fields called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Todd Adcock
Wendell Burkart
Rachel Hanigan
Jody Reinhart
April Sacha
Christopher Schaefer
Jim Linn

DEQ STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Dixon
Patrick Riley
Clifton Hoyle
Kaylee Daneshmond
Amber Edwards
Kole Kennedy
Jonathan Hunter
Nick Hazelrigg
Michael Reid
Elizabeth McCaskill
Linzi Bhatta
Emily Pilgrim
David Cates
Cat Ecker
Chris Robinson
Anthony Hamilton
Keisha Comelius
Lauren Predieri
Michele Woods
Quiana Fields

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rodney Cleveland
Karl Evans
Robert Joyce

OTHERS PRESENT

Bud Ground, EFO
Jenny Longley, Court Reporter
Marla Peck, Ok Farm Bureau

Approval of the Minutes for the September 11, 2025 Solid Waste Management Advisory Council Meeting – Ms. Sacha moved approval of the September 11, 2025 Minutes and Ms. Burkart made the second.

See transcript pages 3 - 4

Roll Call

Todd Adcock	Yes	April Sacha	Abstain
Wendell Burkart	Yes	Christopher Schaefer	Abstain
Rachel Hanigan	Yes	Jim Linn	Yes
Jody Reinhart	Yes		

Director's Report - Mr. Patrick Riley of the LPD, provided an update on Division activities. Also, Mr. Riley announced that Mr. Adcock is resigning from the Council and this will be his last meeting. He also thanked him for his service.

See transcript pages 4 - 8

Used Tire Recycling Program Report – Ms. Emily Pilgrim of the LPD, gave a presentation on summarizing their report to the Governor and Legislature detailing the administration of the Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling Act and its effectiveness in bringing about the cleanup of existing used tire dumps and in preventing the development of new dumps as required by Oklahoma Statute 27A-2-11-401.6

See transcript pages 8 - 17

NORM Workgroup Summary – Mr. Linzi Bhatta of the LPD, gave a presentation on summarizing results of workgroup meetings to review solid waste regulations, pertaining to disposal of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in Subtitle-D permitted landfills.

See transcript pages 17 - 27

Closure and Post-closure 5-year Review – Mr. Riley stated that the consideration of the formation of a workgroup to participate in the five-year update of unit cost worksheets for estimating closure and post-closure financial assurance required by OAC 252:515-27-4(a). Ms. Hanigan and Ms. Burkart volunteered to be a part of the workgroup. Hearing discussion by the Council and none by the public, Mr. Linn called for a motion. Ms. Reinhart moved to approve and Mr. Adcock made the second.

See transcript pages 27 – 35

Roll Call			
Todd Adcock	Yes	April Sacha	Yes
Wendell Burkart	Yes	Christopher Schaefer	Yes
Rachel Hanigan	Yes	Jim Linn	Yes
Jody Reinhart	Yes		

Public Forum – No public issues were raised.

New Business – None

Adjournment – Mr. Linn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reinhart moved to adjourn and Ms. Burkart made the second. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

See transcript page 36 - 37

Roll Call			
Todd Adcock	Yes	April Sacha	Yes
Wendell Burkart	Yes	Christopher Schaefer	Yes
Rachel Hanigan	Yes	Jim Linn	Yes
Jody Reinhart	Yes		

Transcript and sign-in sheet are attached as an official part of these Minutes.

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1 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

2 ON JANUARY 8, 2026 AT 10:00 AM

3 IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

4

5

6 MEMBERS PRESENT

7 Rachel Hanigan

8 Jim Linn

9 Wendell Burkart

10 Jody Reinhart

11 Todd Adcock

12 April Sacha

13 Christopher Schaefer

14

15 MEMBERS ABSENT

16 Rodney Cleveland

17 Robert Joyce

18 Karl Evans

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25 REPORTED BY: Jenny Longley, CSR

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 CHAIRMAN LINN: Good morning, everyone.

3 We will call the meeting to order and I'll read the

4 protocol statement.

5 This January 8, 2026 regular meeting

6 of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council was

7 called in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

8 Notice was filed with the Secretary

9 of State on December 3, 2025. The agenda was duly

10 posted on the doors of the DEQ, 707 North Robinson,

11 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at least 24 hours prior to

12 the meeting.

13 Only matters appearing on the posted

14 agenda may be considered at this regular meeting.

15 In the event that this meeting is continued or

16 reconvened, public notice of the date, time, and

17 place of the continued meeting will be given by

18 announcement at this meeting. Only matters

19 appearing on the agenda of a meeting which is

20 continued may be discussed at the continued or

21 reconvened meeting.

22 And with that we'll do a roll call,

23 Ms. Fields.

24 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Adcock?

25 MR. ADCOCK: Here.

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1 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Burkart?

2 MS. BURKART: Here.

3 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Cleveland is

4 absent. Mr. Evans is absent.

5 Ms. Hanigan?

6 MS. HANIGAN: Here.

7 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Joyce is absent.

8 Ms. Reinhart?

9 MS. REINHART: Here.

10 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Sacha?

11 MS. SACHA: Here.

12 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Schaefer?

13 MR. SCHAEFER: Here.

14 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Linn?

15 CHAIRMAN LINN: Here.

16 SECRETARY FIELDS: We have a quorum.

17 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, ma'am.

18 We will -- item 3 is Approval of the

19 Minutes for the September 11, 2025 Solid Waste

20 Management Advisory Council Meeting. It calls for a

21 Roll Call Vote by the Council.

22 Do I have a motion to approve?

23 MS. SACHA: I'll make a motion.

24 CHAIRMAN LINN: Is there a second?

25 MS. BURKART: I'll second.

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1 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Adcock?

2 MR. ADCOCK: Yes.

3 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Burkart?

4 MS. BURKART: Yes.

5 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Hanigan?

6 MS. HANIGAN: Yes.

7 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Reinhart?

8 MS. REINHART: Yes.

9 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Sacha?

10 MS. SACHA: I'll abstain since I wasn't

11 here.

12 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Schaefer?

13 MR. SCHAEFER: I'll abstain.

14 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Linn?

15 CHAIRMAN LINN: Yes.

16 SECRETARY FIELDS: Motion passed.

17 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, ma'am.

18 To the Director's Report, item 4.

19 Patrick? And Kelly was here. There she is, hi.

20 MR. RILEY: Unless she changed her mind, I

21 don't think Kelly has any --

22 MS. DIXON: No.

23 MR. RILEY: -- comments? Okay.

24 I'll go ahead and talk about things

25 that may be of interest to the Council, but not

<p>1 necessarily require an action.</p> <p>2 The first thing that I want to talk</p> <p>3 about is that we have a departing council member.</p> <p>4 Mr. Todd Adcock, who has served on the Solid Waste</p> <p>5 Council since 2011, right --</p> <p>6 MR. ADCOCK: Yeah.</p> <p>7 MR. RILEY: -- is resigning from the</p> <p>8 Council and this is his last meeting. We've</p> <p>9 certainly enjoyed his participation, his expertise,</p> <p>10 his insight that he brought to our discussion and</p> <p>11 wish him well. So please help me and join me in</p> <p>12 thanking him for his service and wishing him the</p> <p>13 best. Thanks, Todd.</p> <p>14 MR. ADCOCK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 [Applause]</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN LINN: Well, Todd was -- I think</p> <p>17 I came in 2010 to this Council, and Todd came in</p> <p>18 2011 and so -- he and Jeff Shepherd and others, but</p> <p>19 especially Todd and Jeff, you know, we were -- we</p> <p>20 were kind of the triumvirate in terms of just</p> <p>21 longstanding members of the Council. And so I'll</p> <p>22 miss Todd, we'll miss his expertise for sure, and</p> <p>23 hopefully it won't be long before we have a</p> <p>24 replacement.</p> <p>25 But Todd, thank you from all of us</p>	<p>Page 5</p> <p>1 MR. RILEY: And then a couple years in</p> <p>2 consulting, he's a chemical engineer by education,</p> <p>3 environmental engineer by licensure as a</p> <p>4 Professional Engineer, and so we're excited that he</p> <p>5 has agreed to join us and lead the Solid Waste</p> <p>6 Permitting Group. So if you haven't met Anthony</p> <p>7 yet, please take a moment today after the meeting</p> <p>8 and say hello and visit.</p> <p>9 Other things, the Solid Waste Grant</p> <p>10 window is open for units of local government and</p> <p>11 nonprofits to apply for projects that help DEQ</p> <p>12 implement the Solid Waste Management Act.</p> <p>13 We heard in our September meeting</p> <p>14 when we talked about the budget and spending, one of</p> <p>15 our staff, Amanda Scofield, talked about where the</p> <p>16 money went and the projects that were initiated with</p> <p>17 that funding.</p> <p>18 So that window is open now to apply</p> <p>19 through the end of February for grants that will be</p> <p>20 -- for contracts that would start July 1 for the FY</p> <p>21 27 Fiscal Year. So if you're interested in that or</p> <p>22 know people that might be, please refer them to the</p> <p>23 DEQ web page to apply.</p> <p>24 Solid Waste Association of North</p> <p>25 America, the local chapter is holding its annual</p>
<p>Page 6</p> <p>1 for your service to the State and to this Council,</p> <p>2 appreciate you.</p> <p>3 MR. ADCOCK: Thank you, thank you. It's</p> <p>4 been a privilege and it's been very rewarding</p> <p>5 serving on the Council and meeting all the DEQ</p> <p>6 staff. Everybody works so hard here and everybody's</p> <p>7 striving for -- pulling in the same direction and</p> <p>8 it's always great to watch, serving on some of the</p> <p>9 workgroups which I know that we're going to talk</p> <p>10 about today. I've been on I think two of those and</p> <p>11 those are great to be on, so I encourage anybody to</p> <p>12 jump on those workgroups going forward.</p> <p>13 But again, thank you guys, you've</p> <p>14 been great to work with and I appreciate you all.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. RILEY: The next thing, so we have one</p> <p>17 person departing and we have a new person to</p> <p>18 introduce, not for the Council but for the Solid</p> <p>19 Waste staff. I'd like to introduce Anthony</p> <p>20 Hamilton, he's right here behind me.</p> <p>21 Anthony joins us as the Engineering</p> <p>22 Manager for Solid Waste Permitting. He's no</p> <p>23 stranger to DEQ, he served in the Water Quality</p> <p>24 Division for, what, about six years?</p> <p>25 MR. HAMILTON: Yep. Six, seven years.</p>	<p>Page 7</p> <p>1 symposium in March, the 24th, 25th, and 26th, so I</p> <p>2 want to point that out. And along with that</p> <p>3 conference, DEQ provides refresher training for</p> <p>4 Waste Exclusion Plans, they require an annual</p> <p>5 refresher. So that's coming up, and the WEP portion</p> <p>6 of that will be on the 26th of March.</p> <p>7 And that is all I have in my report.</p> <p>8 If there are any questions on any of those things or</p> <p>9 any comments? All right.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, Patrick.</p> <p>11 Item 5 is the Used Tire Recycling</p> <p>12 Program Report. It reads, "Presentation by Used</p> <p>13 Tire Recycling staff summarizing their report to the</p> <p>14 Governor and Legislature detailing the</p> <p>15 administration of the Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling</p> <p>16 Act and its effectiveness in bringing about the</p> <p>17 cleanup of existing used tire dumps and in</p> <p>18 preventing development of new dumps as required by</p> <p>19 Oklahoma Statute 27A-2-11-401.6."</p> <p>20 Good morning.</p> <p>21 MS. PILGRIM: Hi, good morning.</p> <p>22 MR. KENNEDY: Excuse me, Council, sorry.</p> <p>23 Before Emily gets going, Kole Kennedy here, and I</p> <p>24 wanted to just give a quick shoutout to Emily and to</p> <p>25 Jon behind me.</p>
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1 If you haven't met Emily, she's new
 2 to our staff, been here just under a year? Is that
 3 correct?
 4 MS. PILGRIM: Yeah.
 5 MR. KENNEDY: Yeah. So one of her first
 6 initial kick-off tasks was working with Jon to throw
 7 together what we've done the last three years. So
 8 we're very excited to have her introduce that, and
 9 if you haven't met her, stop by afterwards and say
 10 hi. Thank you.
 11 MS. PILGRIM: Hi, my name's Emily Pilgrim
 12 and I'm a part of our Tire Recycling Program here at
 13 DEQ. And under the Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling
 14 Act, every three years we're required to file a
 15 report with the Legislature and the Governor
 16 basically detailing our past three years and
 17 showcasing the effectiveness of our program.
 18 Before this Act came to be, there
 19 were millions of tires throughout the state in
 20 illegal dumps, tire dumps. And under the Clean Air
 21 Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act, all of the
 22 traditional ways of getting rid of tires were no
 23 longer legal, so no more open burning and landfills
 24 weren't taking tires because they float to the
 25 surface eventually.

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1 And so the Act came to be to provide
 2 a legal way to get rid of tires and also to provide
 3 incentive for recycling and creating products from
 4 the material and energy production.
 5 And you've probably noticed whenever
 6 you buy tires in the state, you pay a recycling fee,
 7 and this fee goes towards paying our permitted
 8 recyclers for all of the good work that they do and
 9 it goes into our Used Tire Recycling Indemnity Fund
 10 after it goes through the Tax Commission.
 11 And unless you're driving a semi or a
 12 big tractor, you're probably paying \$2.90 per tire,
 13 and if you're not, you can pull this up and say,
 14 well, actually DEQ says otherwise, because sometimes
 15 they do get a little confused and that's where we
 16 come in. A big part of what we do is we do
 17 inspections, we inspect these dealers and make sure
 18 that they are charging the right fees.
 19 There's not really too much confusion
 20 anymore because it's been a while since we changed
 21 the fees, but we also make sure that your tires are
 22 going to the right place and getting recycled. We
 23 also inspect tire dump sites and our permitted
 24 recyclers just to make sure that they're storing
 25 everything properly because tire fires are not good.

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1 And where are these tires coming
 2 from? Mostly from our tire dealers, which is great,
 3 around 12 million in the past three years; 291,000
 4 from tire dumps, which are a much bigger issue than
 5 many people realize; and 714,000 from community-wide
 6 events; totaling 13 million in the last three years,
 7 fiscal years.
 8 And this is one of those tire dump
 9 sites. This is an especially difficult one, you can
 10 see thousands of tires are sitting in a ravine. And
 11 when we have these sites that are super difficult,
 12 sometimes the property owners aren't able to stage
 13 them themselves, they can't afford all of the heavy
 14 machinery and such.
 15 So we will occasionally reimburse our
 16 recyclers to help us with the cleanup, help the
 17 property owner, which is really great because these
 18 tire dumps are not only an eyesore, but they also
 19 have a negative impact on human and environmental
 20 health, so we really want these cleaned up.
 21 This is a map of the tire dumps that
 22 were cleaned up for the last three years, and you
 23 can see they're spread all throughout the state.
 24 And I think the number's on the next slide. Yes,
 25 219 tire dumps cleaned up, five of which were funded

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1 difficult cleanups, totaling around 291,000 tires.
 2 And these are my favorite
 3 community-wide events. These are events held by
 4 communities all throughout the state where community
 5 residents can come and drop off their tires for free
 6 and to get recycled. It's a great resource.
 7 I think these are super impactful for
 8 preventing illegal tire dumps because they come to
 9 you, they're local, they're free, and they also
 10 spread awareness because not everyone in the state
 11 even knows that we have a recycling program, they
 12 just kind of do what they've done and their father
 13 does and their grandfather did, which is throw them
 14 in the ravine in the back. So it's a great way of
 15 preventing tire dumps.
 16 And one more, we'll look at the next
 17 three years. We want to promote more tire markets.
 18 The program has developed the evaluation criteria
 19 and eligibility requirements for market development
 20 projects.
 21 We recently received an application
 22 for a project for rubber modified asphalt roads,
 23 which is super exciting. If you don't know about
 24 them, they significantly increase the life
 25 expectancy of roads, which in the long run saves

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1 costs for the County and the citizens of Oklahoma.
 2 We don't use these a lot in Oklahoma, so this is
 3 really promising, it shows potential to create a new
 4 market in the state for tires.
 5 We're also seeing discrepancy with
 6 the agriculture tire fees that are collected and the
 7 tires that were actually picked up, likely due to
 8 the change in fees. Some people might not
 9 completely understand it yet, so we're going to
 10 focus on sort of targeting the dealers that sell
 11 these tires specifically, making sure that they're
 12 in compliance and they understand what's going on.
 13 And also, we want to do more funded
 14 cleanups. We did five over the last three years,
 15 and we would like to do as many as we can as we see
 16 the funding come in.
 17 And these are numbers that we've
 18 already talked about, but I think they're just a
 19 great testament for all the great progress that our
 20 program has done in a short period of time. You can
 21 see we've made lot of progress, and I think we're
 22 definitely on track to continue making more
 23 progress. Thank you.
 24 [Applause]
 25 CHAIRMAN LINN: Questions from the Council

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1 or discussion relative to the program?
 2 MR. ADCOCK: What's your -- what's the
 3 largest cleanup that you did in the past couple
 4 years?
 5 MS. PILGRIM: Kole can help me out with
 6 that. It was probably the Madill site, right? Do
 7 you remember how many tires there were?
 8 MR. KENNEDY: Do you remember, Jon?
 9 MR. HUNTER: How many tires?
 10 MR. KENNEDY: Yeah.
 11 MR. HUNTER: 80,000, maybe?
 12 MR. KENNEDY: Yeah. 80,000 tires, and
 13 those were all mostly staged. If you see at the
 14 bottom there --
 15 MR. ADCOCK: Yeah.
 16 MR. KENNEDY: -- that's, like, a 40-foot
 17 track hoe, so it's down at the bottom of the ravine,
 18 and he had to pull them out and, like, hand them off
 19 to the other track hoe just to get them back up to
 20 the top and then restage everything. So that one
 21 went on for, like, eight, nine months. It was quite
 22 the ordeal.
 23 MR. ADCOCK: How long do we think that
 24 that was there?
 25 MR. KENNEDY: Oh, there were whitewalls on

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1 that, so it's been around a long time.
 2 MR. ADCOCK: And that was funded by DEQ?
 3 MR. KENNEDY: So part of the program that
 4 we have that pays for this dump is we have a little
 5 bit of extra funds at the end of the month that sit
 6 in a side of the account, and that total was
 7 \$500,000.
 8 And we split that between the
 9 projects that we try to fund, are these tire dumps
 10 or the rubber modified asphalt contract that Emily
 11 had talked about, as well, so we kind of split it in
 12 between that. So \$250,000 goes to dumps like this,
 13 \$250,000 goes to projects, and as money --
 14 additional money comes in, we're allowed to clean up
 15 more dumps.
 16 MR. SCHAEFER: Do you all believe that
 17 most of the dumps have been located already or are
 18 there still a lot out there? How do you locate the
 19 dumps?
 20 MR. KENNEDY: So I'll answer both
 21 questions. We think we've identified all the dumps
 22 until we get told otherwise. This one was a
 23 relatively new dump that we did not know about.
 24 Random dumps like this we hope don't
 25 exist a lot, but smaller what we call micro-dumps,

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1 couple of thousand here and there on the back, you
 2 know, down the side of a ravine, those happen
 3 frequently.
 4 But the monster dumps, those
 5 generally we think we have a pretty good handle on;
 6 we could have one show up tomorrow, though. And the
 7 way we're notified is someone calls us, they're like
 8 hey, I just got Papa's property and there's a giant
 9 ravine of tires, what do I do, and that's where Jon
 10 and Emily and Michael - who's not here - they go out
 11 and say, man, that's a big problem.
 12 CHAIRMAN LINN: Any other questions or
 13 discussion? I know that my employer and the group I
 14 work with every day, we collect tires from public
 15 lands and utilize our number, our permit number with
 16 DEQ to properly handle the disposal of the tires.
 17 And the program has been around as
 18 long as I have in this organization and it is
 19 fabulous because, frankly, I don't know what we
 20 would do with them if -- and we collect them every
 21 day.
 22 MR. KENNEDY: And I will say thank you for
 23 those kind words, and I think -- I'll kind of talk
 24 on a national level to that and say that what makes
 25 Oklahoma very unique is that opportunity that you're

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1 talking about.

2 Our community-wide events are free

3 for the citizens, like Emily was saying. In other

4 states, that's not the case. So if a city hosts a

5 cleanup event they have to pay, or the state will

6 award two cleanup events a year for their whole

7 state. And I think what has driven the number of

8 tire dumps down is our citizens' access to those

9 community-wide events that we offer.

10 CHAIRMAN LINN: I agree.

11 MR. KENNEDY: So I'm very proud of that

12 part of our program.

13 CHAIRMAN LINN: You should be.

14 Do we have any questions or

15 discussion by the public on the program? All right.

16 Thank you, Emily.

17 MS. PILGRIM: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN LINN: Item 6 reads, "NORM

19 Workgroup Summary. Presentation summarizing results

20 of workgroup meetings to review solid waste

21 regulations pertaining to disposal of Naturally

22 Occurring Radioactive Material, NORM, in Subtitle-D

23 permitted landfills."

24 And it looks like we have a

25 presentation from Linzi. Good morning.

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1 MS. BHATTA: Good morning.

2 Well, good morning everyone, my name

3 is Linzi Bhatta. I've worked in DEQ's Solid Waste

4 Compliance & Enforcement Section for the last four

5 and a half years. And a few months ago Patrick had

6 asked me to help coordinate the NORM workgroup, and

7 I'm here to provide some updates on how that

8 workgroup is progressing. So far, we've held two

9 meetings.

10 And first off, a bit of background as

11 to why this workgroup has been formed. So as

12 discussed in the September council meeting, there is

13 currently a prohibition on the disposal of any

14 radioactive material in Oklahoma landfills. And so

15 this means that even low levels of naturally

16 occurring radioactive material, known as NORM, or

17 technologically enhanced NORM, known as TENORM,

18 cannot be disposed of in Oklahoma landfills. And a

19 few examples of these types of waste may include

20 things like refractory brick, fertilizer, and many

21 different types of oil and gas wastes, so these may

22 be drilling sludges, pigging wastes, pipes, and

23 filters. And DEQ has heard from our constituents

24 that this is a problem because this waste must be

25 hauled out of state for disposal. A lot of this

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1 waste is currently going to Texas, which allows for

2 landfill disposal if that waste meets certain

3 criteria. And so this is an issue for the waste

4 generators because it results in high transportation

5 and disposal costs, but it's also missed revenue for

6 Oklahoma landfills.

7 As requested by the Council, DEQ

8 Solid Waste and DEQ radiation staff have formed a

9 NORM workgroup. At these workgroups, we're

10 discussing potential revisions to the solid waste

11 regulations. We're exploring options that could

12 allow the acceptance of NORM, TENORM and other forms

13 of low-level radiation and how it can be safely

14 disposed of at solid waste landfills without threat

15 to human health and the environment.

16 The workgroup includes a variety of

17 members, we have members from many different

18 backgrounds. They include DEQ staff; Council

19 members including Jody Reinhart, Rachel Hanigan, and

20 Karl Evans; we also have many other interested

21 parties represented, including waste management

22 professionals, consultants, waste generators, oil

23 and gas representatives, state agencies, and

24 environmental organizations.

25 So as I mentioned, we've had two

Page 20

1 workgroup meetings so far, we met on November 5th

2 and December 5th of last year. Each meeting had 15

3 to 20 participants, with participants representing a

4 total of 11 different organizations, so we've had a

5 wide variety of perspectives and input at these

6 meetings. So far, we have not created any draft

7 rules; however, we've used these meetings as a means

8 to gather input and ideas.

9 And before wrapping up, I'll just

10 give a few topics of things we've discussed. As I

11 mentioned, we have not yet created any draft rules;

12 however, many states are already regulating the

13 disposal of NORM and TENORM. So there's been

14 general agreement that rather than writing entirely

15 new regulations, we should instead look at the

16 regulations of other states and use them for

17 guidance and decide which currently existing models

18 would work well in Oklahoma.

19 One document we've been examining is

20 a comparison of state TENORM regulations that was

21 put together by the State of Wyoming. This

22 document's been shared with our workgroup and we're

23 requesting feedback on what the workgroup members

24 think would work well in Oklahoma based on their

25 knowledge and experience.

Page 21

1 There has also been a general
 2 agreement that landfills would need to "opt-in" to
 3 accept NORM waste. Proposed rule revisions would
 4 likely not result in a blanket approval for all
 5 landfills to take this waste, we've instead been
 6 discussing requiring landfills to provide
 7 demonstration that they possess the proper
 8 infrastructure, capability, and expertise to safely
 9 manage this type of waste.

10 And lastly, it's been suggested that
 11 landfills who do opt-in to take more waste would
 12 need to submit a permit modification, including an
 13 updated Waste Exclusion Plan and radiation
 14 management plan for DEQ approval to accept NORM
 15 waste.

16 So overall, these meetings have been
 17 really productive, we've had a lot of great input
 18 and discussion. Our third workgroup meeting has not
 19 yet been scheduled, but we're planning it for
 20 sometime next month.

21 And I'll be glad to answer any
 22 questions. Patrick also asked me to ask Jody and
 23 Rachel if you guys may want to share your
 24 perspective on these meetings.

25 MS. HANIGAN: Sure, yeah. I just want to

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1 commend Linzi and the DEQ staff that have been in
 2 these meetings, it has been a lot to unpack. I
 3 think what immediately appeared to be kind of a
 4 simple issue, like we could maybe take some
 5 low-level radiation at disposal facilities in
 6 Oklahoma, we started peeling back the layers of the
 7 onion and we found out it's gotten really
 8 complicated and there's a lot to think about.

9 So I want to commend DEQ for being
 10 able to navigate the discussion in that room. I
 11 think there has been a lot of progress, and we still
 12 have a ways to go.

13 The interesting thing to me is the
 14 amount of variability between states, and there's
 15 quite of bit of difference between the state rules
 16 and trying to unpack all that and figure out what
 17 makes sense here in Oklahoma, I think is kind of, in
 18 general, the next direction that we're headed with
 19 the next meeting.

20 But it's been a lot for DEQ to
 21 manage, so I just want to commend them for being
 22 able to organize it because you've got many
 23 different voices and perspectives in that room,
 24 which is great because that's how you get to really
 25 the heart of the issue.

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1 So I want to commend you guys, all of
 2 the staff that's been involved in those meetings,
 3 it's been a really worthwhile workgroup, in my
 4 opinion.

5 MS. REINHART: Yes, and what's really been
 6 good is that, you know, we're not just hearing from
 7 regulators and a few Council members, but we have
 8 had a large contingent of industry people, people
 9 that are in the trenches of handling this type of
 10 waste, and you know, they bring the perspective to
 11 all of us about what they're having to deal with and
 12 the financial hardships that are being imposed
 13 because we don't have the ability to manage this
 14 waste here in Oklahoma, so...

15 And I agree with Rachel, the DEQ
 16 staff have been amazing about managing the
 17 conversations and, you know, bringing resources to
 18 us to evaluate and consider, and everybody's having
 19 a voice at the table. It's been really good.

20 MS. BHATTA: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LINN: So in the other states,
 22 Rachel, is it considered - or Linzi - is it
 23 considered a permitted special waste like we would
 24 have here if we ultimately end up accepting it?

25 MS. BHATTA: I think Rachel would have a

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1 better idea of that, but I believe we've been
 2 talking about, yeah, does it fall into the special
 3 waste category.

4 MS. HANIGAN: Yeah, I think a lot of that,
 5 Jim, is going to depend on how we -- our -- the
 6 state's definition of NORM and TENORM and
 7 potentially low-level radioactive waste because the
 8 definition of that, it kind of gets your arms around
 9 the material that you're regulating.

10 So in every state, it's a little bit
 11 different. And we've had some conversations in the
 12 workgroup that other states, such as Kansas, for
 13 example, they review every -- the state agency,
 14 which is KDHE, Kansas Department of Health and
 15 Environment, they review every special waste profile
 16 regardless of what it is, whereas Oklahoma isn't
 17 structured that way, the burden lies with the
 18 generator and the disposal facility.

19 So I don't that that's directly
 20 answering your question, but it's really variable
 21 across all these states.

22 CHAIRMAN LINN: It did, thank you.

23 MS. BHATTA: And in Oklahoma we also have
 24 our NHIW certification, so Non-Hazardous Industrial
 25 Waste certifications, and that's something that does

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1 come to DEQ that we look at, but it's not like what
 2 Kansas does where we approve every single waste
 3 going to a landfill, though there's been discussions
 4 on different ways DEQ could help monitoring what's
 5 coming in as NORM waste.
 6 CHAIRMAN LINN: We have what, Patrick, one
 7 hazardous landfill in the state, in the --
 8 MR. RILEY: Yes.
 9 CHAIRMAN LINN: And that's Northwest
 10 Oklahoma, right?
 11 MR. RILEY: Yeah, the Lone Mountain
 12 facility.
 13 CHAIRMAN LINN: Lone Mountain, okay. Is
 14 it Clean Harbor's?
 15 MR. RILEY: Yes.
 16 CHAIRMAN LINN: Okay. And I'm a little
 17 surprised they don't take it, but I assume it's the
 18 prohibition that you all have been studying which
 19 keeps it -- do you suppose we prohibit it because we
 20 didn't have regulations?
 21 MR. RILEY: I'm not sure why it was --
 22 radiation was originally identified as a prohibited
 23 waste. It falls into the category of PCBs,
 24 radiation, hazardous waste, and I think it probably
 25 originated in Subtitle-D when there was an effort to

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1 separate typical municipal, commercial waste that
 2 was of low concern from industrial type wastes that
 3 were more problematic and a higher concern, and so
 4 when those two paths converged there were
 5 regulations to control those.
 6 I think the challenge is - and Rachel
 7 touched on this, and Linzi - that the definition of
 8 radiation and while our regs say no radiation,
 9 period, it doesn't talk about what radiation
 10 actually is, and there are so many nuances
 11 associated with different types of radioactive waste
 12 that it becomes very complicated when you're trying
 13 to figure out what to do with it and how to manage
 14 it.
 15 And you know, when we first
 16 envisioned this, like Linzi said, you know, maybe
 17 there was just a -- we're going to adopt regulations
 18 from another state and, man, I wish there was one
 19 clear definition that we could see that, yep, that's
 20 just what we want, let's copy that and paste it into
 21 the regs, but it hasn't been that simple.
 22 And because of the complexity of the
 23 issue, it's not something that we want to rush
 24 through, we don't want to inadvertently impact --
 25 negatively impact any stakeholders.

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1 So I'm happy with how things are
 2 going, it's -- and the participation from all the
 3 different stakeholders has been extremely valuable
 4 because this isn't something that we want -- that
 5 DEQ wants to do on its own.
 6 CHAIRMAN LINN: Any other questions or
 7 discussion by Council? All right.
 8 Any questions or discussion by the
 9 public on this topic? All right.
 10 Thank you, Linzi.
 11 MS. BHATTA: Thank you.
 12 CHAIRMAN LINN: Item 7 reads, "Closure of
 13 Post-closure 5-year Review", "Consideration of the
 14 formation of a workgroup to participate in the
 15 five-year update of unit cost worksheets for
 16 estimating closure and post-closure financial
 17 assurance required by OAC 252:515-27-4(a)."
 18 I remember this coming up, having
 19 been here 16 years, almost. I guess I've gone
 20 through three of these now, unbelievable. That's
 21 scary. And so we're going to start with a
 22 presentation from Patrick, it looks like.
 23 MR. RILEY: Well, Jim, I would say what's
 24 remarkable is that you've been through three of
 25 these and you still haven't aged a bit over those

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1 years.
 2 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, sir.
 3 MR. RILEY: I don't know what your secret
 4 is.
 5 CHAIRMAN LINN: Your check's in the mail.
 6 MR. RILEY: And if you're not wise to my
 7 secret, our goal is to form workgroups to do all
 8 DEQ's work so you guys can solve all our problems.
 9 Much like the NORM workgroup, we --
 10 but this is something that we have done before, like
 11 Jim mentioned. The 515 regs that refer to
 12 closure/post-closure costs ask for -- or, require us
 13 to revise the worksheets at least every five years.
 14 To understand why we're doing this, I
 15 think you have to go back to kind of the genesis of
 16 closure/post-closure costs and these worksheets.
 17 And if you think back to the early '90s, the
 18 disposal facilities in Oklahoma were required to
 19 maintain financial assurance way back then, but
 20 there wasn't a prescribed method for figuring out
 21 what tasks should be included and what costs be
 22 associated with those tasks, so you had widely
 23 divergent methods of determining what these cost
 24 estimates should be.
 25 And when you think about the number

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1 of disposal facilities in Oklahoma, we have 50
 2 landfills and probably another 10 to 15 additional
 3 disposal facilities that have financial assurance,
 4 and when each one of those has an obligation or a
 5 liability of \$1 million or more for
 6 closure/post-closure care, then that total aggregate
 7 cost to the state and potential liability, should
 8 DEQ have to step in and accomplish closure, is huge.
 9 So it was recognized back then, even
 10 by the regulated community that, hey, we need to
 11 have a better method of establishing a validated
 12 cost method for establishing these estimates.
 13 So in 2000, DEQ commissioned a study
 14 through a consulting group to look at closure of
 15 disposal facilities and establish some of these
 16 uniform tasks and closure costs. So that was
 17 completed in December of 2000, presented to the
 18 Council and ultimately the Board.
 19 It looked at dozens of other states,
 20 it looked at documents and procedures for estimated
 21 costs of construction or some means tables, it
 22 looked at other agencies like the Department of
 23 Transportation that did construction type of work,
 24 and ultimately came up with a list of tasks for
 25 closure and post-closure care and associated unit

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1 costs.
 2 Those were the -- it developed a set
 3 of worksheets that were incorporated into the 515
 4 Chapter, so Appendix H and I of the Administrative
 5 Code 255:215 has these tables for closure and
 6 post-closure.
 7 The problem with that is that costs
 8 -- I mean, as you would imagine, costs that were
 9 valid in 2000 don't remain valid in 2025. There has
 10 always been a requirement to update costs for
 11 inflation and a method to do that, but it was
 12 recognized early on that there may be market
 13 influences and influences from changes in regulation
 14 that would affect costs beyond inflation.
 15 So the idea is that every five years,
 16 there would be an effort to more comprehensively
 17 review the tasks and costs and make recommendations
 18 for changes as needed. So five years ago, when we
 19 last did this, we -- the workgroup that we convened
 20 that concluded a couple Council members -- I think
 21 Todd Adcock participated in this at least once,
 22 maybe twice.
 23 MR. ADCOCK: Twice.
 24 MR. RILEY: Has fond memories of it, I'm
 25 sure.

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1 And so five years ago, we looked at
 2 it and determined that it looks pretty good, that we
 3 don't think that it's necessary to revise the tasks
 4 or the costs beyond what inflation would require, so
 5 there are no changes.
 6 Five years before that, I think there
 7 were some limited changes made to some specific
 8 tasks and it may have related to the construction of
 9 let-down channels or something that you wouldn't
 10 necessarily recall. Todd, do you remember what it
 11 was?
 12 MR. ADCOCK: No, I remember there was --
 13 there were some things that we -- as we went line by
 14 -- as you go line by line on the
 15 closure/post-closure, you know, we discussed, you
 16 know, is this an appropriate cost and if we didn't
 17 think it was then we went -- we scheduled a second
 18 meeting in between, we would call contractors or --
 19 you know, for dirt work and say, hey, what is your
 20 cost to do, you know, an estimate on this just so we
 21 could get an idea of what those costs were, and if
 22 we came back and it was way low, then we would make
 23 that adjustment.
 24 One of them, and I can't remember
 25 which one it was, was a significant increase, and so

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1 -- and one of my concerns was, you know, for small,
 2 independent landfills this was going to be a big
 3 jump on their post-closure costs that they would
 4 have to, either by bond or credit -- so we
 5 implemented a step method, and so instead of just a
 6 massive jump on year one, we stepped it. Every year
 7 it would increase just a little so by year five, we
 8 got to where we wanted to be.
 9 So that's -- that was a good option
 10 and I think that would continue to work going
 11 forward, but like I said, I don't think we did a
 12 whole lot of changes, but we did go line by line.
 13 If we had a question, we did some research and made
 14 sure that those numbers were good.
 15 MR. RILEY: And I think that's the value
 16 of, you know, having participants from the regular
 17 community involved in it and identifying those
 18 things so that we don't just shock the small
 19 operators and say, okay, now this is what you got to
 20 -- you got to come up with this money. So, you
 21 know, if we trust the process I think that's --
 22 we'll repeat it again, it worked well before, so...
 23 So we're here to form another
 24 workgroup, and obviously we'll take volunteers today
 25 if anyone wants to step forward, otherwise, you

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1 know, I would recommend you give it some thought and
 2 let us know if you would like to participate and
 3 we'll put together the group.
 4 We've got plenty of time. We
 5 wouldn't make these effective at this next round of
 6 updates for financial assurance, which is due in
 7 April, so we've got a year to work on it, if needed.
 8 And Anthony Hamilton, who I introduced earlier in
 9 this meeting, will be leading that effort,
 10 organizing those groups -- that group.
 11 Questions or comments or anybody want
 12 to step forward at this time?
 13 CHAIRMAN LINN: Todd, it'd be great if you
 14 could hang on and do one more.
 15 MR. RILEY: Yeah.
 16 MS. REINHART: Hey, you could always
 17 participate as a member of the public rather than as
 18 a Council member.
 19 MR. RILEY: Council member emeritus,
 20 maybe?
 21 [Laughter]
 22 CHAIRMAN LINN: All right. Questions,
 23 discussion by Council?
 24 MS. HANIGAN: I'll volunteer to be on the
 25 workgroup.

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1 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, Rachel.
 2 MS. BURKART: I'll volunteer, also.
 3 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, Wendy.
 4 MR. RILEY: All right. Very good,
 5 appreciate that. We'll be keeping you in touch with
 6 email.
 7 CHAIRMAN LINN: All right. Any questions
 8 or discussion by the public on this topic? All
 9 right.
 10 Moving on to item 8, Public Forum,
 11 Open Discussion.
 12 MR. HAZELRIGG: Mister Chairman, we need a
 13 roll call vote on that last item.
 14 CHAIRMAN LINN: Yes, item IV says, "Roll
 15 Call Vote by Council". If it were a coral snake,
 16 I'd be on the way to the hospital.
 17 [Laughter]
 18 CHAIRMAN LINN: So do we have -- do we
 19 need a motion?
 20 SECRETARY FIELDS: Uh-huh.
 21 CHAIRMAN LINN: Yes?
 22 Do I have a motion to approve the
 23 formation of the workgroup as stated in the item?
 24 MS. REINHART: I so move.
 25 CHAIRMAN LINN: Any seconds?

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1 MR. ADCOCK: I second.
 2 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Adcock?
 3 MR. ADCOCK: Yes.
 4 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Burkart?
 5 MS. BURKART: Yes.
 6 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Hanigan?
 7 MS. HANIGAN: Yes.
 8 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Reinhart?
 9 MS. REINHART: Yes.
 10 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Sacha?
 11 MS. SACHA: Yes.
 12 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Schaefer?
 13 MR. SCHAEFER: Yes.
 14 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Linn?
 15 CHAIRMAN LINN: Yes.
 16 SECRETARY FIELDS: Motion passed.
 17 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you, Ms. Fields.
 18 Item 8, Public Forum, Open
 19 Discussion. Have any members of the public who want
 20 to come up and have an open discussion? I assume,
 21 Patrick, as opposed to what, a closed one?
 22 MR. RILEY: Sure.
 23 [Laughter]
 24 CHAIRMAN LINN: All right. Seeing none,
 25 we'll move on to item 9, New Business, which is


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1 limited to any matter not known or which could not
 2 have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of
 3 posting the agenda, 24 hours prior to the meeting.
 4 Is there any new business we need to
 5 discuss? I'll take that as a no.
 6 And we'll move on to item 10,
 7 Adjournment, and a reminder that the next regularly
 8 scheduled meeting of the Solid Waste Management
 9 Advisory Council is April 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at
 10 DEQ, 1st Floor, Multi-Purpose Room, Oklahoma City,
 11 Oklahoma.
 12 Do I have a motion to adjourn?
 13 MS. REINHART: I so move that we adjourn
 14 the meeting.
 15 CHAIRMAN LINN: Second?
 16 MS. BURKART: Second.
 17 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Adcock?
 18 MR. ADCOCK: Yes.
 19 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Burkart?
 20 MS. BURKART: Yes.
 21 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Hanigan?
 22 MS. HANIGAN: Yes.
 23 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Reinhart?
 24 MS. REINHART: Yes.
 25 SECRETARY FIELDS: Ms. Sacha?

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1 MS. SACHA: Yes.
 2 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Schaefer?
 3 MR. SCHAEFER: Yes.
 4 SECRETARY FIELDS: Mr. Linn?
 5 CHAIRMAN LINN: Yes.
 6 SECRETARY FIELDS: Motion passed.
 7 CHAIRMAN LINN: Thank you. The meeting is
 8 adjourned.
 9 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:47 AM)
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1 CERTIFICATE
 2 I, Jenny Longley, Certified Shorthand
 3 Reporter within and for the State of Oklahoma, do
 4 hereby certify that the above and foregoing meeting
 5 was by me taken in shorthand and thereafter
 6 transcribed; and that I am not an attorney for nor
 7 relative of any of said parties or otherwise
 8 interested in the event of said action.
 9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
 10 set my hand and official seal this 16th day of
 11 January, 2026.
 12
 13 
 14 _____
 15 Jenny Longley, CSR
 16 CSR # 1903
 17
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 22
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 24
 25



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Attendance Record
January 8, 2026
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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David Cates	DEQ	
Laverne Redman	DEQ	
Mamelle Woods	DEQ	