



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Brad Little, Governor
Jess Byrne, Director

December 8, 2020

Subject: Regionalization and the Eastern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District

To Whom it may Concern:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Solid Waste Program, supports efforts to regionalize solid waste services and disposal, especially in rural and less populated areas of the state. We support such efforts because greater resources can be brought to bear, resulting in better designed and operated facilities, more professional and dedicated solid waste facility staff and employees, and better environmental outcomes.

Regionalization opportunities are rare because it necessarily involves multiple counties to work together and share funds and resources. Opportunities are also limited because suitable solid waste disposal sites are difficult to locate due to logistical, public perception, and environmental factors. The Counties involved in the development of the Eastern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District appear to have made significant and difficult progress toward cooperatively managing a solid waste district and identifying a suitable location for a new regional facility.

DEQ hydrology and solid waste staff have visited the proposed facility location and, at the present time, without the benefit of full information that will be provided with a siting application, it appears to satisfy the siting conditions. It also appears to meet the various county's respective needs logistically, and the remote proposed facility location does not presently appear to be causing contentiousness or conflict.

The DEQ Solid Waste Program will continue to provide input and support for these regionalization efforts for the benefit of East Idaho citizens and for Idaho's air, land, and water resources. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the benefits of regionalization and the importance of regionalization projects such as this.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Beeter".

Matthew Beeter
Solid Waste Program Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
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