



For Immediate Release
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Agreement reached on proposal for waste barge standards

The James River Association on Thursday announced an agreement with Waste Management of Virginia, Inc. and Charles City County on a proposal for tighter standards for containers carrying municipal solid waste on barges operating in Virginia.

The parties are requesting the General Assembly to consider legislation in the 2006 session to add provisions to the Virginia Code that would strengthen existing requirements that barge containers operating in Virginia are watertight.

The proposed legislation stipulates that a prototype waste container be developed and pass a specific test for watertightness, as verified by an independent agent. All waste containers used on barges in Virginia would have to be built based on the prototype specifications, and would routinely be tested for leaks. The proposed standards will provide strong protections for water quality in the James River and other Virginia waterways that carry waste barges, while also providing a clear framework within which the waste industry can confidently operate.

JRA sued the Virginia Waste Management Board in 2003 challenging the adequacy of the state's regulations for testing watertightness and a \$1 per ton fee, as well as the administrative process used to arrive at the regulations. In February, Richmond Circuit Court Judge Randall Johnson found the fee and the administrative process were valid, but ruled that the standard for testing watertightness failed to meet Virginia's statutory requirements. JRA, Waste Management of Virginia, Inc, and Charles City County subsequently entered into negotiations, which led to today's agreement.

"This is a major accomplishment for everyone involved, and a significant step in protecting one of Virginia's most cherished and vital natural resources, the James River," said JRA board member John Thompson.

"We are pleased that we have been able to set aside our differences and come to an agreement that adds an extra level of protection for the environment without placing an undue burden on the industry," said Lisa Kardell, Director of Public Affairs for Waste Management of Virginia.

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