



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
8017 I-30, P.O. BOX 8913  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72219-8913  
ENFORCEMENT: (501) 682-0595  
PROGRAMS: (501) 682-0584  
TECHNICAL: (501) 682-0602  
FAX: (501) 682-0611



November 25, 1996

Jerry Martens  
P.O. Box 625  
Tontitown, Arkansas 72770

RE: The Dead Trees on Your Property Adjacent to the Tontitown  
Landfill

Dear Mr. Martens:

I appreciate you taking time to attend the public meeting, on November 7, 1996, and informing the Department of your concerns regarding your property adjacent to the landfill. The morning following the public meeting, Mike Hood, myself, and a representative for the landfill visited the area you described. We noticed the large dead oak trees you referred to at the public meeting. Several of these trees were along the landfill's property line and immediately below the sediment pond. We could not determine how long the oak trees had been dead although it has probably been longer than a few months.

The cause of their death could be for a variety of reasons. There was dirt piled at the base of some of the trees, which could contribute to their death; oak trees can be sensitive to this. Also, the proximity to the sediment pond could have had an adverse effect on your oak trees. There was no evidence of any sedimentation or run-off out of the pond. Distress from sedimentation, or run-off, would most likely have affected all of the vegetation in the area, not just the oak trees. And except for the oak trees, the rest of the vegetation appeared healthy. However, the water retained in the pond could have caused a rise in the water table, in the immediate area and around the root system of the oak trees, and possibly killing them. This rise in the

water table would not necessarily have adversely affected the other species of trees and shrubs present near these dead trees'.

Although the Department believes that the aforementioned causes contributed to the death of your trees, we can be sure because we are not experts in this field of science. Therefore, we have referred this matter to Mr. James Brigance, your District Forester, of the Arkansas Forestry Service for a more accurate determination of their death. Mr. Brigance will be contacting you in the next few weeks concerning this situation.

Again, thank you for comments at the public meeting and should you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me, or anyone in our office, at (501) 682-0580.

Sincerely,



Robert Lemmer, P.G.  
Geologist Supervisor

cc: Mr. Kevin Hodges, P.E.  
104 N. Missouri Road  
P.O. Box 1310  
Springdale, Arkansas 72765-1310

Mr. James Brigance  
District Forester  
Arkansas Forestry Service  
2780 North Garland  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72704

Tom Coleman, District Field Inspector