

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Alliance Wins Landfill Management Excellence Award

Solid Waste Association of North America Awards Local Facility '06 Gold Rating

Taylor, Pa. – Alliance Landfill has been awarded the Solid Waste Association of North America's 2006 gold award for landfill management excellence. The landfill is one of only 11 landfills to receive this award since its was established in 1994. Alliance representatives will receive the award when SWANA conducts its annual WASTECON conference in Charlotte, N.C., September 19-21, 2006.

"Alliance's team of professionals is proud to be recognized with this distinguished industry award," said Doug Coenen, the landfill's manager. "The award reflects our commitment to protecting the environment and operating as a good neighbor and the pride our employees take in their work every day. "This recognition is the result of a strong team effort and high level of commitment to excellence. It's a prestigious award and an honor for the entire team that helped us earn this."

Jim Dancy, Waste Management's vice president for Pennsylvania, said the site is a benchmark operation for Waste Management's nearly 300 landfills.

"Alliance's team and commitment to excellence is a model for our other operations," Dancy said. "We're proud of what Alliance has accomplished and pledge to continue being an industry leader in environmental protection and neighbor-friendly operations."

John Skinner, SWANA's executive director and CEO, said Alliance and the organization's other award winners are industry standard-setters.

"The organizations that receive these awards are an inspiration to others in the solid waste industry," Skinner said. SWANA's annual awards program recognizes outstanding operations and programs committed to environmentally and economically sound management of solid waste.

Each year, SWANA recognizes top-notch facilities, operations and programs in 13 categories with its Excellence Awards. These categories represent topics covered by SWANA's eight technical divisions.

Alliance's award nomination reviewed the site's history as a strip mine and waste dump, the skilled personnel, materials and technology used to build and operate the landfill; the procedures, systems and monitoring employed to protect the environment and assure that the landfill operates as a good neighbor; and the landfill's compliance record.

The entry also described innovative projects and practices in place at Alliance, such as its experimental Community Landscape Project, and its community outreach efforts, including the landfill's Camp Kestrel Habitat Workshops. The project is determining whether native trees and shrubs can be grown atop a landfill cap and the camps have provided thousands of hours of environmental education programs to local children.

The SWANA award adds to a list of prestigious citations earned by Alliance and its staff. In 2004, Alliance became one of only a handful of municipal solid waste landfills in the United States to receive International Standards Organization 14001 compliance for environmental management standards. It also received Wildlife Habitat Council certification in 2004.

ISO compliance follows a one-year process, which involved all of Alliance's employees and included the review of contracts, training procedures, emergency preparedness, regulations and regulatory approvals, landfill gas collection and groundwater monitoring, stormwater management, wastewater treatment, other monitoring and measurement practices, corrective actions, and document control. Where necessary, adjustments were made to bring Alliance's policies, procedures and practices into alignment with ISO guidelines.

An independent auditor reviewed the landfill's work and then recommended ISO compliance. An auditor visits Alliance every six months to review the landfill's operations and recommend adjustments, a process that assures continual improvement.

The wildlife certification recognizes Alliance's effort to maintain and improve wildlife habitat and offer educational programs on its landfill property and its Duryea Wetlands site in Luzerne County.

Alliance Landfill is a Waste Management company. Waste Management, of Houston, is its industry's leading provider of comprehensive waste management services. Waste Management serves municipal, commercial, industrial, and residential customers throughout the United States and Canada. It operates Alliance Landfill in Taylor, Apex Waste Services in Dunmore, and the Beach Lake Transfer Station in Wayne County. It employs more than 200 people in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

For more than 40 years, **SWANA** has been the leading professional association in the solid waste field. SWANA's goals are to "Educate, Innovate, and Communicate." Through a variety of programs such as on-site conferences, online training, local chapters, technical divisions, an Applied Research Foundation, and the Excellence Awards Program, SWANA reaches out to solid waste professionals across North America to foster information sharing and networking, and to facilitate discussion that will help to advance practices and projects in the industry.

SWANA has more than 7,500 active members in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Its members include industry regulators and other government agencies, public and private landfill operators and waste hauling companies, and a wide array of vendors who provide services, materials and other supplies to the industry.