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NC Solid Waste Section Guidance for Managing Horizontal Drilling Muds from Pipelines and other such utility projects April 2018

The intent of this guidance is address the proper management of drilling muds that are required to be removed from a pipeline or utility project for proper disposal. This guidance does not apply to muds generated during vertical drilling for the purposes of oil and gas exploration.

To manage drilling muds offsite that contain anything other than bentonite and water, they must be sampled for Appendix I VOCs and metals using the SW-846 Test Method 1311: Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure. Sampling frequency should be increased if additives change during the project and/or if the drilling crosses through a known contaminated parcel(s). Once determined to be non-hazardous in nature using the testing method above, the material must be dewatered to a point that it would pass the EPA paint filter test (method 9095) before it can be accepted at a permitted construction and demolition (C&D) or municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill. The receiving landfill could accept the mud for disposal and/or use for cover (except on external facing slopes) at their discretion in compliance with their permit requirements. The acceptance of this material is still at the landfill facility's discretion even if state law, rules, policy and/or guidance allows it and may be subject to local waste acceptance ordinance(s).

At no time should drilling muds be hauled to land clearing and inert debris (LCID) landfills or be stored/staged, and/or placed as fill on other properties (not identified above) without further consulting the Solid Waste Section as additional restrictions shall apply. For information specific to the requirements for the on-site/on-project management of drilling muds under 15A NCAC 02T .0113, please inquire with Division of Water Resources staff in the respective DEQ Regional office: <https://deq.nc.gov/contact/regional-offices>.

You may contact the Solid Waste Section directly at (919) 707-8200 or the regional Environmental Sr. Specialist shown on this map:
<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Waste%20Management/DWM/SW/FieldOpMap.pdf>

****Disclaimer:** This document is valid until such time it is amended by Division of Waste Management staff to address changes in law, rule, and/or DEQ policy. Please ensure you are following the newest version of this document found here: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/solid-waste-section>