

## **Chronicle of Solid Waste Management in Washington County**

**Pre 1950's** – Solid waste was dumped in numerous areas without any regard to environmental impact. Typical areas selected were back roads, over banks, and sinkholes. Dumps near populated areas also reduced the volume of waste through open burning.

**1950's** – On October 10, 1950, a demonstration of the “landfill” method of garbage disposal was given in Hagerstown. Started using clay to line the bottom of ditches (cells) where waste was buried.

**1960's** – The City County Landfill opened in 1960 and the Hancock Landfill opened in 1967. The U.S. Public Health Act (1961) developed standards for landfill operations. The Solid Waste Disposal Act (1965) encouraged closing of dumps and design/operation of landfills.

**1970's** – In early 1970's there were six managed disposal sites and over 60 illegal dumps. All disposal sites contributed to pollution problems. Two landfills, the 62-acre City/County Landfill and the 25-acre Hancock Landfill were operating. The County purchased 148 acres for the future Resh Road Landfill. The Clean Air Act of 1970 prohibited open burning of waste and made landfilling more attractive. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop criteria for sanitary landfills.

**1980's** – In 1984 Congress granted the EPA regulatory authority over landfills. The old City/County Landfill closed in 1982 and was capped with dirt. Resh Sanitary Landfill opened in 1982. The Planning Commission adopted the landfill site selection process in 1986. After examining 44 potential sites, a 427 acres site was purchased for the future Forty West Landfill.

**1990's** – The first synthetic line cell and leachate collection system was constructed in 1990. The County participated in a Four County Waste/Recycling Study (completed in 1990). A waste audit was completed at the Resh Road II Municipal Landfill in 1993. Hancock Landfill closed in September 1993. The Reclamation Rubble Landfill opened in July 1995.

**2000's – Present** – The County conducts environmental monitoring and maintenance for at least 30 years from year of closure of the City/County Landfill (1982), Hancock Landfill (1993), the Reclamation Rubble Landfill, which was placed in a dormant status in November 2000, and the Resh Road II Municipal Landfill (2001). The Forty West Landfill opened December 11, 2000.