



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

May 6, 2015

To: Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations and its member landfills

From: Iowa Sec. of Agriculture Hon. Bill Northey and DNR Director Chuck Gipp

RE: Disposal of Avian Influenza affected poultry

As all of you know, Iowa is currently experiencing an unprecedented volume of dead poultry due to avian influenza. This disease will ultimately result in tens of millions of dead chickens and turkeys that will need to be disposed of in a manner that protects the environment, prevents the spread of the disease and provides a feasible method for disposal.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and partner agencies at the federal, state and local levels have spent countless hours in the last two weeks discussing effective and reasonable options for bird disposal. Options that have all been carefully analyzed – and are now being implemented – are landfilling, on-site burial, composting and incineration. Because of the unprecedented volume associated with this event, we anticipate ALL of the above methods to be used. Indeed, at this point in time, we have already had some facilities that have used composting, some that have rendered, some that are using on-site burial and the DNR has approved an emergency air permit for at least one on-site incineration operation.

We are asking that landfills consider being an option for disposal along with the other alternatives mentioned above. The DNR has already provided a special waste acceptance criteria document for landfills willing to accept the birds. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship have carefully reviewed and approved protocols that would be used for transportation to the landfills and appropriate disinfection. Clean Harbors (<http://www.cleanharbors.com>), a leading provider in environmental, energy and industrial services throughout North America, has been contracted by the USDA to oversee transportation and biosecurity efforts in the disposal of the dead poultry.

Once again, we fully anticipate that all viable methods for disposal will be reviewed, considered and utilized during this emergency situation. Landfills provide a very desirable, safe and feasible method for disposal in that your operations have been designed, engineered and are operated to safely dispose of and contain this type of waste. We sincerely urge you to assist where you can in this emergency situation.

If you have any questions, we would ask that you please contact Amie Davidson at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, (515) 725-8307 or [amie.davidson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:amie.davidson@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Northey".

Bill Northey  
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Gipp".

Chuck Gipp  
Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources