

Model Memorandum of Understanding

**RI Department of Environmental Management  
and  
RI Resource Recovery Corporation**

**CONCERNING LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF LPAI WASTE**

DATE

To: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation  
C/O NAME, Executive Director  
65 Shun Drive  
Johnston, RI 02919

Re: Disposal of LPAI Waste in the Central Landfill

NAME OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Thank you for your efforts in arranging for the burial of the deceased birds from PREMISES NAME in TOWN, Rhode Island. As you know, birds on this site were exposed to the Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) virus during an outbreak of that disease in MONTH, YEAR. The time has now come for the exposed birds to be replaced by new stock, requiring first the euthanasia of the exposed birds and disposal of the carcasses in a safe and biosecure manner. Standard protocol utilizes deep burial at a landfill as an accepted and safe method to dispose of the birds and prevent contamination of other farms.

This form of Avian Influenza (STRAIN SUBTYPE) is only capable of causing disease in birds, and represents no known health risk to humans or other species of animals. It is not the same strain that was recently found in chickens in Asia, and it is not genetically related to any strain that has caused human disease. Nevertheless, in order to prevent spread of the virus to other birds, strict biosecurity protocols have been in place to clean and disinfect all materials and vehicles on the farm. The public has been notified that related eggs, meat, and poultry products are safe for consumption. Part of the biosecurity protocol requires that all dead birds and litter be disposed of in a manner that prevents further exposure to poultry.

After euthanasia by carbon dioxide, the carcasses will be contained in sealed 3 mil. plastic bags and placed in lined, leak proof, covered containers (provided by SUPPLIER) and transported, under escort by RIDEM staff, to the Central Landfill in Johnston for immediate burial. Before leaving the farm, all vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected.

RIDEM anticipates a schedule that provides for NUMBER AND VOLUME containers to arrive, together, at the landfill scales at DATE AND TIME RANGE, with the possibility of an additional delivery on DATE AND TIME RANGE, if necessary. RIDEM staff will accompany the containers into the landfill and will be responsible for handling any materials as needed. RIRRC staff need have no direct contact with the bags. Once emptied, the containers will be spayed down with a disinfectant and promptly leave the landfill.

Please be assured that the euthanized animals do not pose a threat or hazard to the humans involved in the burial process. The carcasses will be handled by individuals who are wearing protective clothing. LPAI will be effectively inactivated and contained through standard deep burial protocols.

This method of burial of affected birds in landfills has been the standard method of disposal used by Rhode Island and other states during major outbreaks in the recent past, and it has not been associated with any known waste hazards. There is no significant risk of airborne transmission or transmission by indirect contact with humans. For their personal protection, machine operators and Landfill personnel will be protected by wearing washable rubber boots, rubber gloves, coveralls, hats, and protective eyewear that are normally used when disposing of waste.

The Division of Agriculture will provide any additional protective clothing needed as well as staff to supervise the burial and handle any carcasses, if that becomes necessary. Equipment used for transport or burial will be washed thoroughly and then sprayed with a 10% solution of sodium hypochlorite (bleach) as a precautionary disinfection. The DEM Division of Agriculture can also assist as needed.

Again, your cooperation and that of the Landfill is appreciated. Please contact me for any clarifications.

NAME OF STATE VETERINARIAN, DVM  
RI State Public Health Veterinarian  
RIDEM, Division of Agriculture  
401-222-2781

CC: NAME, RIDEM Director  
NAME, Chief, RI Division of Agriculture