



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CRRA to Start Hartford Landfill Closure Work in 2007** **Sections of Ash Area to Be Capped Well Before Final Delivery of Waste**

HARTFORD, Conn. – Final closure of the Hartford landfill is expected to start this summer, more than a full year before the final load of waste will be deposited there, under a contract awarded today by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.

The CRRA Board of Directors today voted to approve a contract worth roughly \$2.3 million to E. T.& L. Corporation to begin installing a permanent cap on 7.2 acres of the landfill's 16-acre ash residue area. The ash area is adjacent to the landfill's 80-acre municipal solid waste area, where CRRA deposits waste that cannot be turned into electricity at its Mid-Connecticut Project trash-to-energy facility.

Under a revised closure plan approved earlier this year by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, CRRA may install a permanent cap on portions of the landfill that have already reached their capacity. Ash from the Hartford trash-to-energy plant is still being deposited on the eastern sections of the ash area, but the western sections have reached their permitted capacity.

“When we promised the people of Hartford that we would close the landfill it was our intention to use state-of-the-art technology and to close it as quickly as possible,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “This action works toward both those important goals.”

DEP requires CRRA to cover portions of the ash area not actively in use with an impervious membrane. Rather than incur the expense of installing such a covering on the sections that have reached capacity, CRRA determined it was more economical to install the permanent cap now.

The landfill cap will include

- an impermeable plastic membrane,
- two layers of protective fabric,
- one layer of engineered drainage material,
- four soil layers designed to protect and provide for drainage and vegetative growth and
- surface drainage channels.

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The total thickness of the landfill cap will be a minimum of 30 inches. Grasses and other appropriate types of vegetation will be planted in the topsoil, creating a more natural look on the side of the landfill facing Interstate-91.

CRRA's revised closure plan stipulates that no material – ash or other permitted solid waste – will be delivered to the landfill after Dec. 31, 2008.

CRRA has leased the landfill from its owner, the City of Hartford, since 1982. The City opened the landfill in 1940 and operated an incinerator on that site from 1955 to 1976.

Since leasing the landfill, CRRA has installed significant environmental safeguards, including a groundwater flow control system that ensures the landfill does not impact either the Connecticut River or the surrounding groundwater, and a gas collection system, which takes odorous gases created by the decomposition of waste and burns those gases to generate enough electricity to power 1,500 homes.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA's new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA's four solid waste projects serve 118 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through its Visitors Center and Trash Museum in Hartford and Children's Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>.