

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

324.11523 Financial assurance; bond requirements; interest; termination; noncompliance with closure and postclosure monitoring and maintenance requirements; expiration or cancellation notice; effect of bankruptcy action; alternate financial assurance; risk pooling financial mechanism.

Sec. 11523. (1) The department shall not issue a license to operate a disposal area until the applicant has filed, as a part of the application for a license, evidence of the following financial assurance, as applicable:

(a) Subject to section 11523b, financial assurance for a landfill described in this subdivision shall be a bond in an amount equal to \$20,000.00 per acre of licensed landfill within the solid waste boundary. However, the total amount of the bond shall not be less than \$20,000.00 or more than \$2,000,000.00. Each bond shall provide assurance for the maintenance of the landfill site or a portion thereof for a period of 30 years beginning when the department approved a closure certification as described in section 11523a(5)(b) for the landfill or portion thereof, respectively. In addition to this bond, the owner or operator of a landfill described in this subdivision shall maintain a perpetual care fund. All of the following landfills are subject to this subdivision, unless the owner or operator of the landfill, by written notice to the department, elects to provide financial assurance under subdivision (b):

(i) A preexisting unit at a type II landfill.

(ii) A type II landfill that stopped receiving waste and was certified as closed before April 9, 1997.

(iii) A type III landfill that stopped receiving waste before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subparagraph.

(iv) A type III landfill that received waste on or after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subparagraph. However, beginning 2 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subparagraph, upon the issuance of a new license for such a landfill, the landfill is not subject to this subdivision but is subject to subdivision (b).

(b) Financial assurance for a type II or type III landfill that is an existing unit not subject to subdivision (a) or a new unit or for a landfill, otherwise subject to subdivision (a), whose owner or operator elects to be subject to this subdivision shall be a bond in an amount equal to the cost, in current dollars, of hiring a third party to conduct closure, postclosure maintenance and monitoring, and, if necessary, corrective action. A license application for a type II landfill that is subject to this subdivision shall demonstrate financial assurance in compliance with section 11523a. A license application for a type III landfill shall demonstrate financial assurance in compliance with section 11523a if the application is filed on or after the date 2 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added subsection (2).

(c) Financial assurance for an existing coal ash impoundment shall be a bond in an amount equal to \$20,000.00 per acre within the impoundment boundary. However, the total amount of the bond shall not be less than \$20,000.00 or more than \$1,000,000.00. The bond shall provide assurance for the maintenance of the coal ash impoundment or a portion thereof for a period of 30 years after the coal ash impoundment or any approved portion is completed. In addition to the bond, the owner or operator of an existing coal ash impoundment shall maintain a perpetual care fund. For applications for a license to operate submitted to the department after December 28, 2020, an applicant that demonstrates that it meets the requirements of R 299.9709 of the MAC may utilize the financial test under that rule for an amount not exceeding 95% of the closure, postclosure, and corrective action cost estimate.

(d) Financial assurance established for a licensed solid waste processing and transfer facility or incinerator shall be a bond in the amount of \$20,000.00. The financial assurance shall be maintained in effect for 2 years after the disposal area is closed.

(2) The department shall not issue an approval under a general permit for a materials utilization facility unless the applicant has filed, as a part of the application for the approval, evidence of the following financial assurance, as applicable:

(a) Financial assurance established for a materials recovery facility or anaerobic digester that requires a general permit shall be a bond in the amount of \$20,000.00. The bond shall be maintained in effect until the facility has ceased accepting material, all managed material has been removed from the site, and the facility's closure certification has been approved by the department as described in section 11525b(4)(a).

(b) Financial assurance established for a composting facility with a general permit shall be a bond in the amount of \$20,000.00. The financial assurance shall be maintained in effect until the facility has ceased accepting compostable materials, any finished or partially finished compost has been removed from the site, and the facility's closure certification has been approved by the department as described in section 11525b(4)(a).

(c) An innovative technology facility shall submit to the department a detailed written estimate, in current dollars, of the cost for the owner or operator to hire a third party to close the facility, including the cost to dispose of any remaining waste material, or otherwise contain and control any remaining waste residues. The department shall approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the closure cost estimate in writing. The financial assurance shall be a bond in the amount of the approved closure cost estimate. The bond shall be maintained in effect until the facility has ceased accepting material, all managed material has been removed from the site, and the facility's closure certification has been approved by the department as described in section 11525b(4)(a).

(3) An owner or operator of a materials management facility who elects to post cash as a bond shall accrue interest on that bond quarterly at the annual rate of 6%, except that the interest rate payable to an owner or operator shall not exceed the rate of interest accrued on the state common cash fund for the quarter in which an accrual is determined. Interest shall be paid to the owner or operator upon release of the bond by the department. Any interest greater than 6% shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the general fund. An owner or operator who uses a certificate of deposit as a bond shall receive any accrued interest on that certificate of deposit upon release of the bond by the department.

(4) An owner or operator of a disposal area that is not a landfill may, beginning 2 years after closure of the disposal area, request that the department terminate the bond required under this section. Within 60 days after the request is made, the department shall approve or deny the request in writing. The department shall approve the request if all waste and waste residues have been removed from the disposal area and closure has been certified by a licensed professional engineer and approved by the department.

(5) If the owner or operator violates the closure and postclosure monitoring and maintenance requirements of part 115, the department may utilize a bond required under this section for the closure and postclosure monitoring and maintenance of a disposal area to the extent necessary to correct the violations. At least 7 days before utilizing the bond, the department shall issue a notice of violation or other order that alleges violation of part 115 and shall provide the owner or operator an opportunity for a hearing. This subsection does not apply to a perpetual care fund.

(6) The terms of a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, insurance policy, or perpetual care fund bond shall require the issuing institution to notify both the department and the owner or operator at least 120 days before the expiration date or cancellation of the bond. If the owner or operator does not extend the effective date of the bond, or establish alternate financial assurance within 90 days after receipt of an expiration or cancellation notice from the issuing institution, both of the following apply:

(a) The department may draw on the bond.

(b) In the case of a perpetual care fund bond, the issuing institution shall deposit the proceeds into the standby trust fund or escrow account unless the department agrees to the expiration or cancellation of the perpetual care fund bond.

(7) The department shall not issue a construction permit or a new license to operate a disposal area to an applicant that is the subject of a bankruptcy action commenced under title 11 of the United States Code, 11 USC 101 to 1532, or any successor statute.

(8) An owner or operator of a landfill that utilizes a financial test as financial assurance for the landfill may utilize a financial test for other types of materials management facilities that are located on the permitted landfill site.

(9) The department may utilize a bond required under this section for a facility subject to approval under a general permit for bringing the facility into compliance with part 115, including, but not limited to, removing managed material from the facility, cleanup at the facility, and fire suppression or other emergency response at the facility, including reimbursement to any local unit of government that incurred emergency response costs. Not less than 7 days before utilizing the bond, the department shall issue a notice of violation or order that alleges violation of part 115 and shall provide the owner or operator an opportunity for a hearing.

(10) Before closure of a landfill, if money is disbursed from the perpetual care fund, the department may require a corresponding increase in the amount of a required bond if necessary to meet the requirements of this section.

(11) If an owner or operator of a disposal area fulfills the financial assurance requirements of part 115 by obtaining a bond, including, but not limited to, a perpetual care fund bond, and the surety company, insurer, trustee, bank, or financial or other institution that issued or holds the bond becomes the subject of a bankruptcy action commenced under title 11 of the United States Code, 11 USC 101 to 1532, or any successor statute or has its authority to issue or hold the bond suspended or revoked, the owner or operator shall, within 60 days after receiving notice of that event, establish alternate financial assurance under part 115.

(12) Owners or operators may demonstrate all or a portion of required financial assurance for 2 or more materials management facilities that are not landfills with a risk pooling financial mechanism approved by the

department that meets all of the following requirements:

(a) The mechanism is administered by a surety company, insurer, surety, bank, or other financial institution that has authority to issue such a mechanism and is regulated and examined by a state or federal agency.

(b) The mechanism is irrevocable and renews automatically unless, not less than 120 days before the automatic renewal date, the insurer, surety, bank, or other financial institution notifies the department and the owners or operators of the covered facilities that the mechanism will not be renewed, and the department agrees in writing to termination of the mechanism.

(c) The amount of financial assurance available for any single covered facility is not less than would be available for that facility if it was covered alone under a bond.

(d) The addition or deletion of facilities covered under the mechanism requires written agreement of the director.

(13) The department shall access and use funds under a mechanism approved under subsection (12) subject to the provisions for bonds under subsection (9).

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 1996, Act 359, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1996;—Am. 2013, Act 250, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 2013;—Am. 2018, Act 640, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018;—Am. 2022, Act 246, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023.

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