

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

SUBPART 6  
INCINERATORS AND OPEN BURNING

**324.11539 Open burning of yard waste or leaves; prohibition; effect of local ordinance and part 55; open burning of household waste, materials; application of subpart 7; violations and penalties; open burning of certain storage bins; disposal of unserviceable flag.**

Sec. 11539. (1) The open burning of yard waste or leaves is prohibited in any municipality having a population of 7,500 or more, unless specifically authorized by local ordinance. Within 30 days after adoption of such an ordinance, the clerk of the municipality shall notify the department of its adoption.

(2) Subsection (1) does not permit a county or municipality to authorize open burning of yard waste or leaves by an ordinance that is prohibited under part 55 or rules promulgated under part 55.

(3) A person shall not conduct open burning of household waste that contains plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals, or hazardous materials.

(4) Subpart 7 does not apply to an individual who violates subsection (3) by open burning of waste from that individual's household. The individual is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to the following:

- (a) For a first offense within a 3-year period, a warning by the judge or magistrate.
- (b) For a second offense within a 3-year period, a civil fine of not more than \$75.00.
- (c) For a third offense within a 3-year period, a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.
- (d) For a fourth or subsequent offense within a 3-year period, a civil fine of not more than \$300.00.

(5) Notwithstanding section 5512, the department shall not promulgate or enforce a rule that extends the prohibition under subsection (3) to materials not listed in subsection (3).

(6) Part 115, part 55, or rules promulgated under part 55 do not prohibit a person from conducting open burning of wooden fruit or vegetable storage bins constructed from untreated lumber if all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) The burning is conducted for disease or pest control.
- (b) The burning is not conducted at any of the following locations:

(i) Within a priority I area as listed in table 33 or a priority II area as listed in table 34 of R 336.1331 of the MAC.

(ii) In a city or village.

(iii) Within 1,400 feet outside the boundary of a city or village.

(7) Subsections (5) and (6) do not authorize open burning that is prohibited by a local ordinance.

(8) A congressionally chartered patriotic organization that disposes of an unserviceable flag of the United States by burning that flag is not subject to regulation or sanction for violating state law or a local ordinance pertaining to open burning.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2018, Act 640, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018;—Am. 2022, Act 247, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

**Administrative rules:** R 299.4101 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

**324.11539a Repealed. 2022, Act 247, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to an update report of solid waste management plans to the legislature.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

**324.11540 Incinerator operator or owner; compliance with permit and license requirements of subpart 2.**

Sec. 11540. (1) The owner or operator of an incinerator may, but is not required to, comply with the disposal area construction permit and operating license requirements of subpart 2 if both of the following conditions are met:

(a) Solid waste to be incinerated is managed in a properly enclosed area in a manner that prevents fugitive dust, litter, leachate generation, precipitation runoff, or any release of solid waste to the air, soil, surface

water, or groundwater.

(b) The incinerator has a permit issued under part 55.

(2) An incinerator that, as authorized by subsection (1), does not comply with the construction permit and operating license requirements of subpart 2 is subject to the planning provisions of part 115 and must be included in the county materials management plan for the county in which the incinerator is located.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2022, Act 247, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

**Administrative rules:** R 299.4101 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

### **324.11540a Repealed. 2010, Act 345, Eff. Mar. 1, 2011.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to promulgation of rules affecting inert material before March 1, 2011.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

### **324.11541 Municipal solid waste incinerator; materials management plan; implementation schedule.**

Sec. 11541. (1) Within 9 months after the completion of construction of a municipal solid waste incinerator, the owner or operator shall submit a plan to the department for a program that, to the extent practicable, reduces the incineration of noncombustible materials and dangerous combustible materials and their hazardous by-products at the incinerator. The plan shall include an implementation schedule. Within 30 days after receiving the plan, the department shall approve or disapprove the plan and notify the owner or operator in writing. In reviewing the plan, the department shall consider the current materials management plan for the planning area where the incinerator is located and available markets, disposal alternatives, and collection practices for the managed materials. If the department disapproves a plan, the notice shall specify the reasons for disapproval. If the department disapproves the plan, the owner or operator shall, within 30 days after receipt of the department's disapproval, submit a revised plan that addresses all of the reasons for disapproval specified by the department. The department shall approve or disapprove the revised plan within 30 days after receiving the revised plan and notify the owner or operator in writing. If the department disapproves the revised plan, the notice shall specify the reasons for disapproval. If the department disapproves the revised plan, the department may continue with the approval process under this subsection or take appropriate enforcement action.

(2) Not later than 6 months after the approval of the plan by the department under subsection (1), the owner or operator shall implement the plan in compliance with the implementation schedule. The operation of a municipal solid waste incinerator without an approved plan under this section subjects the owner or operator, or both, to the sanctions provided by this part.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 1996, Act 358, Eff. Oct. 1, 1996;—Am. 2022, Act 247, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

### **324.11542 Municipal solid waste incinerator ash; disposal.**

Sec. 11542. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) and except for municipal solid waste incinerator ash that is described and used as provided in section 11506(6)(h), municipal solid waste incinerator ash shall be disposed of in 1 of the following:

(a) A landfill that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The landfill is in compliance with this part and the rules promulgated under this part.

(ii) The landfill is used exclusively for the disposal of municipal solid waste incinerator ash.

(iii) The landfill design includes all of the following in descending order according to their placement in the landfill:

(A) A leachate collection system.

(B) A synthetic liner at least 60 mils thick.

(C) A compacted clay liner of 5 feet or more with a maximum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second.

(D) A leak detection and leachate collection system.

(E) A compacted clay liner at least 3 feet thick with a maximum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second or a synthetic liner at least 40 mils thick.

(b) A landfill that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The landfill is in compliance with this part and the rules promulgated under this part.

(ii) The landfill is used exclusively for the disposal of municipal solid waste incinerator ash.

(iii) The landfill design includes all of the following in descending order according to their placement in the landfill:

(A) A leachate collection system.

(B) A composite liner, as defined in R 299.4102 of the part 115 rules.

(C) A leak detection and leachate collection system.

(D) A second composite liner.

(iv) If contaminants that may threaten the public health, safety, or welfare, or the environment are found in the leachate collection system described in subparagraph (iii)(C), the owner or operator of the landfill shall determine the source and nature of the contaminants and make repairs, to the extent practicable, that will prevent the contaminants from entering the leachate collection system. If the department determines that the source of the contaminants is caused by a design failure of the landfill, the department, notwithstanding an approved construction permit or operating license, may require landfill cells at that landfill that will be used for the disposal of municipal solid waste incinerator ash, which are under construction or will be constructed in the future at the landfill, to be constructed in conformance with improved design standards approved by the department. However, this subparagraph does not require the removal of liners or leak detection and leachate collection systems that are already in place in a landfill cell under construction.

(c) A landfill that is a monitorable unit, as defined in R 299.4104 of the part 115 rules, and that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The landfill is in compliance with this part and the rules promulgated under this part.

(ii) The landfill is used exclusively for the disposal of municipal solid waste incinerator ash.

(iii) The landfill design includes all of the following in descending order according to their placement in the landfill:

(A) A leachate collection system.

(B) A synthetic liner at least 60 mils thick.

(C) Immediately below the synthetic liner, either 2 feet of compacted clay with a maximum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second or a bentonite geocomposite liner, as specified in R 299.4914 of the part 115 rules.

(D) At least 10 feet of either natural or compacted clay with a maximum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second, or equivalent.

(d) A landfill with a design approved by the department that will prevent the migration of any hazardous constituent into the groundwater or surface water at least as effectively as the design requirements of subdivisions (a) to (c).

(e) A type II landfill, as described in R 299.4105 of the part 115 rules if both of the following conditions apply:

(i) The ash was generated by a municipal solid waste incinerator that is designed to burn at a temperature in excess of 2500 degrees Fahrenheit.

(ii) The ash from any individual municipal solid waste incinerator is disposed of pursuant to this subdivision for a period not to exceed 60 days.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a landfill that is constructed pursuant to the design described in subsection (1) shall be capped following its closure by all of the following in descending order:

(a) Six inches of top soil with a vegetative cover.

(b) Two feet of soil to protect against animal burrowing, temperature, erosion, and rooted vegetation.

(c) An infiltration collection system.

(d) A synthetic liner at least 30 mils thick.

(e) Two feet of compacted clay with a maximum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second.

(3) A landfill that receives municipal solid waste incinerator ash under this section may be capped with a design approved by the department that will prevent the migration of any hazardous constituent into the groundwater or surface water at least as effectively as the design requirements of subsection (2).

(4) If leachate is collected from a landfill under this section, the leachate shall be monitored and tested in accordance with this part and the rules promulgated under this part.

(5) As an alternative to disposal described in subsection (1), the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste incinerator may process municipal solid waste incinerator ash through mechanical or chemical methods, or both, to substantially diminish the toxicity of the ash or its constituents or limit the leachability of

the ash or its constituents to minimize threats to human health and the environment, if processing is performed on the site of the municipal solid waste incinerator or at the site of a landfill described in subsection (1), if the process has been approved by the department as provided by rule, and if the ash is tested after processing in accordance with a protocol approved by the department as provided by rule. The department shall approve the process and testing protocol under this subsection only if the process and testing protocol will protect human health and the environment. In making this determination, the department shall consider all potential pathways of human and environmental exposure, including both short-term and long-term, to constituents of the ash that may be released during the reuse or recycling of the ash. The department shall consider requiring methods to determine the leaching, total chemical analysis, respirability, and toxicity of reused or recycled ash. A leaching procedure shall include testing under both acidic and native conditions. If municipal solid waste incinerator ash is processed in accordance with the requirements of this subsection and the processed ash satisfies the testing protocol approved by the department as provided by rule, the ash may be disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill, as defined by R 299.4104 of the part 115 rules, licensed under this part or may be used in any manner approved by the department. If municipal solid waste incinerator ash is processed as provided in this subsection, but does not comply with the testing protocol approved by the department as provided by rule, the ash shall be disposed of in accordance with subsection (1).

(6) The disposal of municipal solid waste incinerator ash within a landfill that is in compliance with subsection (1) does not constitute a new proposal for which a new construction permit is required under section 11509, if a construction permit has previously been issued under section 11509 for the landfill and the owner or operator of the landfill submits 6 copies of an operating license amendment application to the department for approval pursuant to part 13. The operating license amendment application shall include revised plans and specifications for all facility modifications including a leachate disposal plan, an erosion control plan, and a dust control plan which shall be part of the operating license amendment. The dust control plan shall contain sufficient detail to ensure that dust emissions are controlled by available control technologies that reduce dust emissions by a reasonably achievable amount to the extent necessary to protect human health and the environment. The dust control plan shall provide for the ash to be wet during all times that the ash is exposed to the atmosphere at the landfill or otherwise to be covered by daily cover material; for dust emissions to be controlled during dumping, grading, loading, and bulk transporting of the ash at the landfill; and for dust emissions from access roads within the landfill to be controlled. With the exception of a landfill that is in existence on June 12, 1989 that the department determines is otherwise in compliance with this section, the owner or operator of the landfill shall obtain the operating license amendment prior to initiating construction. Prior to operation, the owner or operator of a landfill shall submit to the department certification from a licensed professional engineer that the landfill has been constructed in accordance with the approved plan and specifications. When the copies are submitted to the department, the owner or operator of the landfill shall send a copy of the operating license amendment application to the municipality where the landfill is located. At least 30 days prior to making a final decision on the operating license amendment, the department shall hold at least 1 public meeting in the vicinity of the landfill to receive public comments. Prior to a public meeting, the department shall publish notice of the meeting in a newspaper serving the local area.

(7) The owner or operator of a municipal solid waste incinerator or a disposal area that receives municipal solid waste incinerator ash shall allow the department access to the facility for the purpose of supervising the collection of samples or obtaining samples of ash to test or to monitor air quality at the facility.

(8) As used in subsection (1), "landfill" means a landfill or a specific portion of a landfill.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 1996, Act 359, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1996;—Am. 2004, Act 325, Imd. Eff. Sept. 10, 2004;—Am. 2014, Act 178, Eff. Sept. 16, 2014;—Am. 2018, Act 640, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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### **324.11543 Municipal solid waste incinerator ash; transportation.**

Sec. 11543. (1) If municipal solid waste incinerator ash is transported, it shall be transported in compliance with section 720 of the Michigan vehicle code, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, being section 257.720 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(2) If municipal solid waste incinerator ash is transported by rail, it shall be transported in covered, leakproof railroad cars.

(3) The outside of all vehicles and accessory equipment used to transport municipal solid waste incinerator ash shall be kept free of the ash.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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**324.11544 List of laboratories capable of performing test provided for in MCL 324.11542; compilation; publication; definitive testing; fraudulent or careless testing.**

Sec. 11544. (1) The department shall compile a list of approved laboratories that are capable of performing the test provided for in section 11542.

(2) The department shall publish the list compiled under subsection (1) on or before July 1, 1989, and shall after that date make the list available to any person upon request.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), a test conducted by an approved laboratory from the list compiled under subsection (1) is definitive for purposes of this part.

(4) If the department has reason to believe that test results provided by an approved laboratory are fraudulent or that a test was carelessly performed, the department may conduct its own test or may have an additional test performed at the department's expense.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Popular name:** Solid Waste Act

**324.11545 Incineration of used oil prohibited; "oil" defined.**

Sec. 11545. Beginning June 21, 1993, a municipal solid waste incinerator shall not incinerate used oil. As used in this section, used oil has the meaning ascribed to this term in part 167.

**History:** 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

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