



# PSAB AT A GLANCE

Section PS 3270 - Solid Waste Landfill Closure  
& Post-closure Liability

# Section PS 3270 – *Solid Waste Landfill Closure & Post-closure Liability*

## LANDFILL OPERATIONS

- **Solid waste landfill site:**
  - A defined area of land or excavation that receives waste possibly including household waste, commercial solid waste, non-hazardous sludge and industrial solid waste.
- A stringent environmental approval process for landfill sites is set out in government legislation and regulations.
- A landfill footprint comprises the total expected capacity of a landfill site. It can be divided into individual phases and each phase may be made up of individual cells.
- Prior to receiving environmental approval and accepting any waste a landfill operator must agree to certain obligations including, responsibly for closure and post-closure care of the approved site.

### CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

- Include all activities related to closing the landfill site. These activities may include:
  - Final cover and vegetation; and
  - Completing facilities for:
    - Drainage control features;
    - Leachate monitoring;
    - Water quality monitoring; and
    - Monitoring and recovery of gas.

### POST-CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

- Include all activities related to monitoring the site once it can no longer accept waste. These activities may include:
  - Acquisition of any additional land for buffer zones;
  - Treatment and monitoring of leachate;
  - Monitoring ground water and surface water;
  - Gas monitoring and recovery; and
  - Ongoing maintenance of various control systems, drainage systems, and final cover.

## RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT

- A liability for closure and post-closure care must be recognized in a government’s financial statements as the landfill site’s capacity is used. Usage must be measured on a volumetric basis (e.g., cubic meters).
- When a site / phase first starts accepting waste the liability for closure and post-closure care begins. The liability is then recognized over the operations of the site / phase and is fully recognized when the site / phase stops accepting waste.
- The change in the liability and the expense for the site / phase equals:
  - Estimated total expenditure x (Cumulative capacity used / Total estimated capacity) - Expenditures previously recognized.
    - Estimated total expenditure:
      - Represents the sum of the discounted future cash flows associated with closure and post-closure care activities.
      - The appropriate discount rate may be the government’s average long-term borrowing rate, determined on a consistent basis.
      - In determining the estimated total expenditure for closure and post-closure care activities, consideration should be given to current technology, the length of the post-closure care period, and the environmental regulations at the time the estimate is made.
    - Capacity:
      - A rational and systematic method and the best information available should be used in estimating the capacity used.
      - In order for the liability and results to be comparable over time, the basis for estimating the total capacity and capacity used must be applied consistently.
      - An assessment of the need for a comprehensive review of capacity must be completed once every three years.
  - The reported liability:
    - May change based on changes in the estimated total expenditure, capacity used or total capacity.
    - Would be reduced when closure and post-closure care disbursements are made.



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