



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE  
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

221 MALL DRIVE, SUITE #201  
RAPID CITY SD 57701  
605-394-2229  
danr.sd.gov

February 6, 2026

Brenda Binegar  
Dept. of Agriculture & Nat. Resources  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: In re Matter of Permit Renewal Application of the City of Rapid City  
Concerning the Rapid City Landfill

Dear Ms. Binegar:

Enclosed please find the Department's Witness Disclosure. A copy of these documents will be served upon the parties and Hearing Chair Morris as indicated in the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Blair  
General Counsel – Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Enclosures

Cc/encl: Steve Kropp – DANR Waste Management Program (via email only)  
David McVey – Counsel, Brd. Of Minerals & Environment (via email only)

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
BOARD OF MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT

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IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT	)	DANR WITNESS DISCLOSURE
RENEWAL APPLICATION OF THE	)	
CITY OF RAPID CITY, SOUTH	)	
DAKOTA, FOR THE RAPID CITY	)	
LANDFILL	)	

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The Waste Management Program of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Department), through the undersigned counsel of record, hereby discloses that it intends to call the following witnesses in its case in chief in the above captioned matter:

**Steve Kropp** – DANR Waste Management Program. Mr. Kropp will generally testify to the municipal solid waste landfill program administered by the Department, review of the City of Rapid City’s application, and development of the Program’s draft permit. Mr. Kropp’s witness declaration and curriculum vitae are attached.

The witnesses identified above are expected to testify primarily as fact witnesses regarding their respective roles concerning the City of Rapid City’s municipal solid waste landfill permit renewal application, actions taken as part of their official duties, and any corresponding state statutes or administrative rules. It is recognized that some inherent opinion testimony will be elicited. As a result, DANR is hereby disclosing the above mentioned as hybrid witnesses. The witnesses identified above have not prepared expert reports that DANR intends to offer as part of, or rely upon in, its case in chief.

The Department reserves the right to designate further expert witnesses should the need arise. Further, the Department reserves the right to call other witnesses not disclosed by this pleading should it be determined that such witnesses are necessary. The Department also reserves the right to call any rebuttal witnesses, expert or otherwise, as may be necessitated by the testimony and evidence presented during the hearing of this matter.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2026



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Steven R. Blair  
Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
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Rapid City, SD 57709  
605-394-2229  
[steven.blair@state.sd.us](mailto:steven.blair@state.sd.us)  
*Counsel – DANR Waste Management  
Program*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the original of the undersigned counsel's DANR WITNESS DISCLOSURE was submitted via electronic mail and by United States Mail, First Class, postage prepaid upon the following to be filed in the above captioned matter:

Brenda Binegar  
Dept. of Agriculture & Nat. Resources  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
brenda.binegar@state.sd.us  
*Staff – Brd. Minerals & Env.*

Further, the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the above referenced document was served via electronic mail and United States Mail, First Class, Postage Prepaid upon the following:

Bob Morris  
704 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 2  
P.O. Box 370  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
bobmorris@westriverlaw.com  
*Hearing Chair*

Carla R. Cushman  
Deputy City Attorney  
300 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
carla.cushman@rcgov.org  
*Counsel – City of Rapid City*

Verne Goodsell  
Kristi Erdman  
Goodsell Oviatt Law Firm  
246 Founders Park Dr., # 201  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
verne@goodselloviatt.com  
kristi@goodselloviatt.com  
*Counsel to Petitioners*

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.



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Steven R. Blair  
General Counsel – DANR

## HYBRID WITNESS DECLARATION

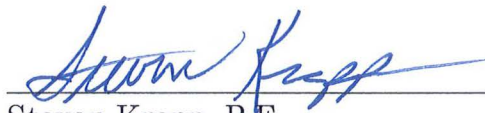
**STEVE KROPP**

### **SD-DANR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

- A. Steven Kropp, 1994 Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Since 2000 I have been employed as an engineer with the Waste Management Program of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). My current position is Engineer IV. Job duties include processing, evaluation and review of municipal solid waste landfill and other solid waste permit applications, permit writing and permit amendments. Job duties also include inspections of municipal solid waste landfills and other solid waste facilities, plans and specification review and approval of municipal solid waste landfill and other solid waste projects, ground water report reviews, statistical analysis of ground water data, and geological/hydrogeological review of workplans and reports for solid waste facilities. A copy of my curriculum vitae is attached to this declaration.
- B. The general subject matters on which I may testify are: the regulatory program administered by DANR concerning municipal solid waste landfills; the statutes and administrative rules pertinent to municipal solid waste landfills; how renewal applications for municipal solid waste landfills are processed; the processing, analysis, and review of the City of Rapid City's application for renewal of its municipal solid waste landfill permit; the formulation and drafting of DANR's Recommendation concerning the City of Rapid City's renewal application, and the drafting of the Draft Permit (including any conditions and variances).
- C. I processed the permit renewal application submitted by the City of Rapid City in November 2024. Processing such an application involves both a completeness review (to determine if the submitted application materials meet the requirements of state statute or administrative rule), and a technical review (which analyzes the submitted materials in relation to the requirements for issuance of a solid waste permit). During the technical review the Waste Management Program (WMP) begins drafting a permit recommendation and determines what variances may need to be applied, if applicable, to ensure the site operates in a way that limits any potential impact to human health and the environment as much as possible. After review of the conditions and variances, the WMP then issues a final recommendation. The WMP has recommended approval of the City of Rapid City's municipal solid waste landfill renewal application.

D. Is it the WMP's opinion that the application submitted by the City of Rapid City is complete, and with the recommended conditions and variances provides to those portions of the operation within the jurisdiction and regulation of the board the necessary safeguards to protect the environment during and following the term of operation, and ensures that the facility is properly closed and the land is appropriately reclaimed following termination of the operation. The application, with the recommended conditions and variances, meets the requirements established in SDCL ch. 34A-6, and ARSD 74:27 for approval of the permit.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026



Steven Kropp, P.E.

Engineer IV

Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Waste Management Program

# STEVEN A. KROPP, P.E.

523 East Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-3153  
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## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE:

*Engineer IV* – April 2000 – Present; South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources – Waste Management Program; Pierre, SD; I am responsible for the enforcement and regulation of solid waste disposal laws for the State of SD primarily relating to the 15 Subtitle D landfills in SD. I review and approve engineering plans and specifications for construction projects at the landfills to ensure compliance with the solid waste rules and regulations as well as accepted engineering practices and standards. I review construction quality assurance reports for landfill construction projects. I conduct solid waste inspections of landfills and other permitted solid waste facilities. I review solid waste permit applications for the landfills and other solid waste facilities for completeness and technical adequacy. I write solid waste permits for these facilities. I provide technical support to the public, landfill operators, department staff, and private consultants regarding all matters of solid waste permitting and compliance. I'm also the primary staff person who reviews the ground water monitoring reports for the 15 Subtitle D landfills. I conduct statistical analysis on those reports and review geological and hydrogeological work plans and reports for the municipal solid waste landfills.

*Chemical Receiving & Civil Engineering Technician* – May 1999 – December 1999; Aerotek (formally On-Site Environmental Services); I worked two different contract jobs. The first job consisted of working at a household hazardous waste and recycling center for Hennipen County. This job involved collecting household hazardous wastes and recyclable materials from the public and bulking the wastes for future recycling or disposal. The second job was a Civil Engineering Technician for an engineering firm in Northfield, MN. This job consisted of performing independent third-party soil and concrete testing for private and public construction projects according to ASTM and ACI standards as well as technical report writing.

*Grade (Quality) Control Technician* – March 1995 – March 1996; Barrick Mining Corporation (Homestake Mining Company); Lead, SD; I worked as an underground grade control technician. Most of my time was spent underground working with the mining crews to ensure that the rock that was being mined was ore and not waste rock. I conducted grab and pick samples from the active headings to be sent to the assay lab to confirm if the rock being mined was ore or waste. I geologically mapped all the active areas of the mine that were in my assigned area. I digitized these maps into AutoCad for use by the mine engineering department to determine if further mining was needed. I worked with the mining bosses regarding surveying and other technical issues. I geologically logged exploration drill core once per week to determine if there were any additional ore bodies that could be mined.

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS:

May 1994	South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City, SD; Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering
May 1999	Initial Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) Certification; I have maintained my certification current every year since 1999.
February 2001	Attended University of Wisconsin-Madison Sanitary Landfill Design Course
March 2004-present	Solid Waste Association of North America Certified Manager of Landfill Operations – Landfill Inspector
December 2004-present	Registered Professional Engineer in South Dakota