

CHAPTER 7

Solid Wastes Collection and Disposal Facilities*

Information on the generation and disposal of solid wastes is badly lacking in the United States. The parameters for solid wastes are known only partially and at best only on a sporadic basis for an extremely small number of the communities in the Nation.

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF SOLID WASTES COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Technologically the state of the art of solid waste collection and disposal appears to be rather rudimentary, yet there are considerable variations in handling practices among U.S. communities. Most communities do not collect all the solid wastes produced within their boundaries because of either voluntary or mandatory self-disposal by the producers themselves. Furthermore, the amount of refuse produced and collected varies according to the nature of a community's economic functions (industrial, commercial, residential), according to the habits and styles of living of the residents, income levels, climate, season of the year, and the frequency of collection.

1. DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SERVICES RENDERED

(a) *Terminology and Definition*

The unwanted and discarded material of a community can be gaseous, liquid, or solid. Refuse is the term commonly applied to solid wastes, which are neither waterborne nor airborne.

Refuse is subclassed into garbage, rubbish, ashes and special wastes. These subclasses frequently are defined as follows:

Garbage refers to putrescible wastes derived from the preparation, cooking, serving, handling, storing, selling, and processing of foods.

Rubbish comprises the nonputrescible wastes of a combustible as well as noncombustible character normally produced by a community. Examples include paper, wood, cloth products, rubber, garden wastes, synthetics, metals, plastics, glass, ceramics, stones and dirt.

Ashes are defined as the residue from burning solid fuels and the incineration of refuse.

Special wastes include street refuse, demolition and construction wastes, dead animals, outsize objects such as abandoned vehicles, furniture, stoves, refrigerators and trees, sewage treatment residue, medical and industrial wastes.

According to origin refuse comes either from domestic, municipal, institutional, commercial, industrial or agricultural sources.

The collection of solid wastes involves storage at the place of origin and transportation to the point of disposal. The method of

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