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Disposal of Waste Coal

This guidance document has been produced by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) to provide information on the disposal of waste coal. The NDEE considers waste coal to be a special waste. It may be disposed of at a permitted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill or buried at the site of the train derailment. Burial at the derailment site is the preferred disposal option and requires prior approval by NDEE as required by Nebraska [Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#).

For on-site burial of waste coal:

1. A “Special Waste Characterization and Land Disposal Request Form” must be submitted to the NDEE with all relevant information filled out.
2. A disposal trench must be excavated. The trench should generally measure 4 to 10 feet deep and 10 to 20 feet wide.
3. The trench must be lined with the equivalent of a 20-mil plastic liner sheet.
4. The bottom liner sheet must be covered with 6 inches of fine dirt to prevent damage during the placement of the waste coal.
5. The coal must be deposited and then covered with the equivalent of a 20-mil plastic liner sheet.
6. The enclosed coal must be covered with 2 feet of earthen material cover and graded to facilitate surface water runoff.

RESOURCES:

- NDEE Home Page <https://dee.nebraska.gov/>

Contacts:

- NDEE Main Number (402) 471-2186
- NDEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- NDEE Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: NDEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov

NDEE Publications:

- NDEE Form – “Special Waste Characterization and Land Disposal Request Form”
Guidance documents are available on the NDEE Home Page under “Forms”, “Publications, Grants & Forms”.
- [Title 132 – Nebraska Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)
Titles are available on the NDEE Home Page under “Resources and Services”, “Laws & Regulations”, “Rules & Regulations”.

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