

Landfill to close cell, open another soon

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Work on opening a new cell at the Didsbury landfill is underway and construction work on getting it operational could get underway by spring 2016 if everything goes according to plan.

That was the message that a group of residents neighbouring the landfill heard at a meeting hosted by the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC) on June 17. The meeting was an annual gathering the waste commission holds with residents to update them on the commission's operations.

Daniel Yost, of Parkland Geotechnical Consulting, a firm hired by the waste commission to do work at the landfill, told the residents that the future cell, on the north side of the landfill, will have a leachate collection pond to collect all of the landfill's groundwater. Yost said preliminary planning of the new cell is ongoing and the hope is that Alberta Environment and Parks will approve the plan later this fall, with construction on the new cell to begin next spring.

"Once we finish the final design, we give them the construction plan, and it usually takes about a month to get approval from them," Yost said in an interview following the meeting. "The old cell is filling up and we'll be at capacity (by next) spring or summer, so we need to be constructing."

Yost said Parkland Geotechnical is also monitoring the lifespan of the landfill as well. One of the other projects he is working on includes finding out how deep the landfill is so he can better predict how much longer the landfill will last.