STATEMENT OF USE

The purpose of this section is to describe the existing and intended future use of the Benning Road Facility.

Existing Use

The District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW) built and operated the facility as a solid waste incinerator from 1972 to 1994. Incoming refuse vehicles would arrive via Benning Road, proceed onto on-site scales for load weights, and then enter the building to discharge their refuse loads. The point of discharge was into the two refuse pits. The facility's receiving capacity was approximately 2,500 tons per day, based on facility sizing and operating hours. Both public and private sector refuse vehicles used the facility.

The incinerator operations at the facility were discontinued in the mid-1990s. Through the installation of a conveyor and refuse chute, operations at the facility shifted to loading large solid waste transfer trailers for out-of-District disposal. The facility, now termed the Benning Road Solid Waste Transfer Facility, has continued to date to operate in this manner. For most of 2002, incoming refuse vehicles currently have been limited to DPW vehicles only, with an average receiving rate of approximately 300 tons of solid waste per day. Limited use of the facility by private contractors is being reinitiated in the last quarter of 2002, and consequently, the average receiving rate is planned to increase to approximately 600 tons of solid waste per day.

Intended Future Use

The intent is to continue the facility's use as a solid waste transfer station. As discussed in this application, DPW intends to make certain alterations and repairs to the facility to:

- improve the efficiency and reliability of the waste transfer operations
- return use of the facility to both public and private sector refuse vehicles and to operate within the original design capacity
- improve environmental controls associated with the facility
- allow for periodic citizen drop-off of household hazardous wastes, recyclables, and bulk solid waste items.

To this end, an addition to the facility is proposed for the north side of the existing building. The footprint of this addition is 14,000 square feet. The addition will be supported by pilings and it will be elevated. The existing roof over the tipping floor will be removed and the proposed new roof (reflective type, industrial system) over the full addition will be 6 feet higher. The added floor space and new roof will encompass an addition to the existing tipping floor so as to allow: a) refuse discharge on the floor by today's larger refuse vehicles and b) material inspections prior to loading into the transfer trailers. Also, a loading tunnel for the solid waste transfer trailers will be constructed

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below the new tipping floor expansion so as to allow efficient top loading into the trailers. This new structure will be within 25 feet of the existing property line to the north.

Alterations and repairs of the facility will include improvements to certain environmental controls, including:

- Upgrades to the existing storm water system;
- New odor and dust control mitigation system;
- New ventilation system; and
- New signage and lighting.

A citizens' drop-off area is planned on the south side of the property to allow incoming passenger vehicles (District residents only) to dispose of recyclables, household hazardous waste, and bulk solid waste item.