

## 6.2 Monthly Visual Monitoring

*A Monthly Visual Inspection consists of a walk around the landfill once each month to note current conditions and identify needed repairs. The compiled information can be useful for future planning. Monthly visual monitoring is required by regulation and visual monitoring forms must be kept in the landfill records for 5 years. (18 AAC 60.800)*

Visual monitoring of the landfill facility must be conducted at least once each month and is best accomplished using a checklist-style form. The form ensures that all aspects of the landfill are checked each month and also provides a place for noting specific information about what is observed during the event.

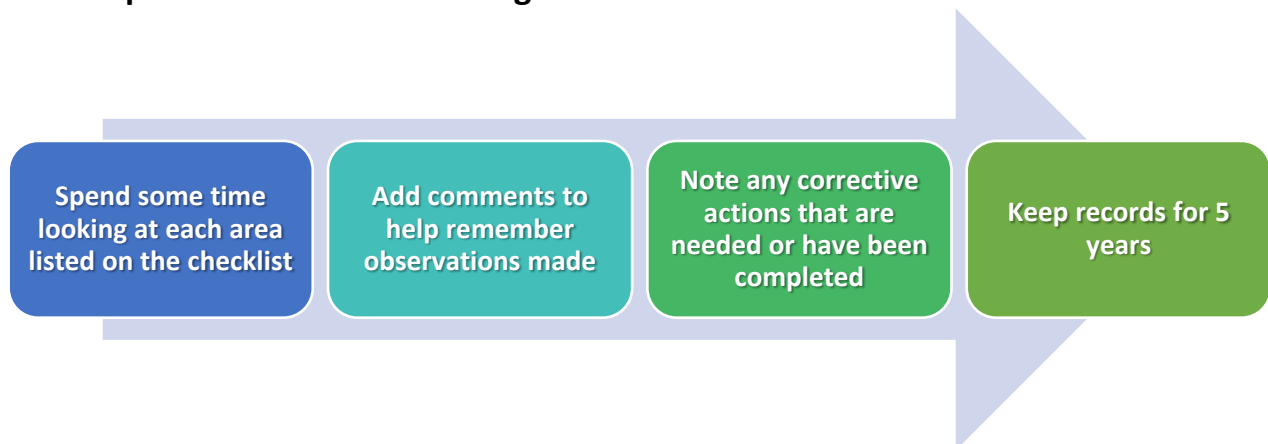
### **Why it is important:**

Performing visual monitoring each month provides many benefits to the landfill operator. Regular visual monitoring enables the operator to keep track of general maintenance issues. For example, if the operator notices that the gate to the landfill is starting to get stuck, plans can be made to fix it before it is completely broken or unrepairable. Or if the operator notices that each spring the culverts are clogged with ice and the water isn't draining, preventative measures can be taken to keep the water from backing up.

Visual monitoring can also be a form of documentation to justify solid waste needs. Regularly documenting items that need repair, maintenance, or replacing can help justify additional operator hours or the additional funding to make needed repairs.

Visual monitoring records must be kept for 5 years. This is because the information they contain can be very useful to reference later in order to understand what has been occurring over time. For example, the information can help identify seasonal changes that regularly take place at the landfill and seasonal planning needs in order to better prepare for these changes. The information in these records will also help any new staff at the landfill understand what changes to expect around the landfill on an annual basis.

### **How to perform visual monitoring:**



# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN RURAL ALASKA

Walk around and look at everything in the landfill, such as the access road, fence, burn unit, ditches, inactive areas, etc. It is important to look at more than just the working face (where waste is actively disposed of). Everything included on the visual monitoring form should be inspected.

It is important to fill out the comments section of the visual monitoring form. Don't leave this section blank, or just write "yes" or "no" or "none". Filling out the comments section provides a description of each area that can be used to help track whether the situation is getting better or worse upon reviewing the past records. By recording comments, a quick review of the forms will make it clear which corrective actions are still incomplete and which have been completed.

If a corrective action is taken or planned, be sure to note this on the visual monitoring form.

## Helpful tips:

- Picking a specific day of the month to perform visual monitoring can make it easier to remember to perform it each month.
- Failure to perform visual monitoring is one area where many landfills lose points on ADEC's landfill inspections.
- Every permitted landfill includes a visual monitoring form as a part of the permit. For unpermitted landfills, ADEC can provide a visual monitoring form to use.
- Landfills can develop their own visual monitoring form tailored to the landfill as long as it covers every area of the landfill.
- Reviewing old forms before doing a new inspection will help track changes over time and provide a reminder of any needed repairs.

Class III Landfill Visual Monitoring Form		
Inspector: _____	Weather Conditions: _____	
Date: _____	Temperature: _____	
	Wind: _____	
	Yes/No	Comments/Corrective Action
<b>Access Control:</b>		
Is access road in good condition?		
Is there litter on the road to the landfill?		
Is the entrance gate locked?		
Are fence and gate in good condition?		
<b>Landfill:</b>		
Are signs in good condition?		
Is waste deposited in designated area?		
Has the working face increased in size?		
Does part of the landfill need to be compacted, consolidated, and covered with cover material?		
Are there any household hazardous waste (HHW) items that need to be removed from working face?		
Is there excessive litter in the landfill?		
Is there excessive odor, noise or dust coming from the landfill?		
Is there any dumping in unauthorized areas?		
Is there any evidence of target shooting?		
Is there damage to the structural integrity of a containment structure, retaining wall, erosion control, or diversion structure?		
Is there evidence of fire or combustion in the working face (i.e. hot ash smoldering, smoke from the waste, etc.)?		