

Landfill drives down trash-drop fee to \$8 per pickup load

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Rates for people to dump truckloads of trash at two Browning-Ferris Industries landfills have been lowered from \$10 to \$8, a company official said Friday.

Joe Irizarry, sales manager for the company's Central Texas landfill district, said the reduction was to take effect Saturday in time for weekend household cleanups.

"There was such a difference between the city's rate (for dropping off waste) and our old rate," Irizarry said. "It was a concern of the city's, and although it is outside the scope of our contract, we felt like we needed to be sensitive to it."

The company, which operates two landfills and a recycling center, has been awarded contracts by City Council to accept two-thirds of the solid waste collected by San Antonio's garbage collectors.

The other third will be trucked to a Travis County private landfill operated by Texas Disposal Systems of Austin.

The Nelson Gardens municipal landfill ceased operations Tuesday so city and contract crews can prepare it for final closure in early October.

For years, there was no cost to drop off household garbage at Nelson Gardens. More recently, however, the city had assessed a 75-cent fee per load brought in by pickup truck.

Irizarry said the \$8 fee is a flat rate per pickup and will be charged at the company's main landfill at 7790 Tessman Road off Farm Road 1516 and its landfill at 440 Pinn Road off Texas 151.

The Pinn Road facility only accepts brush and construction materials.

For people who are not part of the city's pilot or curbside recycling programs and do not want to be charged a fee for dropping off certain items, Irizarry suggested taking recyclables to the company's recycling center at 400 Probandt St., formerly known as the ACCO Waste Center.

The center is to pay fluctuating amounts for aluminum cans and glass and also will accept newspapers, cardboard, plastic milk jugs and soda bottles and office and computer paper, he said.

Irizarry also said the company had offered to clean up neighborhoods along the routes leading to any of its facilities if trash is inadvertently strewn about while people are driving to the landfill.

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Page: 11D

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