

1981	<p>http://www.pressreader.com/usa/northwest-arkansas-democrat-gazette/20130804/281908770773378</p> <p>The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality issues a solid waste permit for the RLH Landfill in Baxter County</p>
1991	<p>Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District - one of 18 regional solid waste districts In Arkansas, established in 1991 by the Arkansas General Assembly. The Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District includes Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties in North Central Arkansas. The District Board of Directors is comprised of each County Judge, and the Mayors of all Class I Cities (In the spring of 2011, the Board adopted a new name — Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District, to replace the name of Northwest Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District.)</p>
2002	<p>RLH management puts the landfill on the market</p>
2003	<p>November – The Environmental Quality Department issues a notice of violation to the RHL citing repeated violations of solid waste regulations and Arkansas Code. RLH later agrees to pay \$250,000 in fines and set aside an additional \$500,000 in financial assurances to fund post-closure costs on portions of the landfill</p>
2005	<p>October 1 – Bank of the Ozarks issues \$12.3 million in bonds to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District (later knows as the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District) for the purchase of RLH Landfill and its hauling services, as well as several environmental remediations to the site. The landfill and hauling service are renamed the North Arkansas Board of Regional Sanitation or NABORS.</p>
2008	<p>The Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District board begins increasing users’ tipping fees at the landfill. Over several years, the cost increases from \$33 per ton to \$42 per ton of garbage.</p>
2010	<p>Trash hauling services in Searcy, Baxter and Newton counties begin hauling garbage to dumps outside of the solid waste district, greatly reducing the revenue of the Nabors Landfill.</p>
2012	<p>Source: http://harrisondaily.com/news/baxter-landfill-up-for-sale-nabors/article_40b6652e-6d61-11e1-a16e-001871e3ce6c.html</p> <p>March 14 Harrison newspaper article: The North Arkansas Board of Regional Sanitation, or NABORS, an alliance of Mountain Home and Baxter and Marion counties, had been trying to buy NABORS Landfill for a long time. The Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District back in 2012 owned the landfill and gave NABORS a deadline of March 13, 2012 to arrange financing to make the purchase.</p> <p>Although Baxter County officials made a strong case Tuesday to be allowed a little more time to arrange financing, the solid waste district board voted 8 - 4 to deny that request and sell it instead to any interested company.</p> <p>Mountain Home Mayor David Osman and Baxter County Judge Joe Bodenhamer addressed the solid waste board, which consists of county judges and mayors of first class cities in Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties.</p> <p>Bodenhamer said all six counties voted to purchase the landfill years ago (2005). Those counties all agreed to use the landfill to pay for it, but they haven’t followed through and created a financial hardship for the landfill.</p> <p>Osmon said the landfill actually was beginning to operate in the black before the other counties started taking their trash to other landfills.</p> <p>Bodenhamer explained that the Baxter County Quorum Court recently passed a resolution supporting a 3/8-cent sales tax that would be used to purchase the landfill.</p> <p>Osmon said NABORS had begun negotiations with Heartland Environmental Services, LLC to manage the closure of the one cell for which the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has taken the solid waste to task.</p> <p>He said there are funds in accounts set aside for financial assurance that could be used to funding closing that cell if NABORS was allowed to buy the landfill.</p>

	<p>He went on to say that the alliance is current on all debt payments, that payment schedules are established for repayment of delinquent sales tax and the alliance has done all water testing as required by law.</p> <p>“We can operate this landfill,” Osmon said.</p> <p>Bodenhamer again emphasized that all counties in the solid waste district should fulfill their moral and financial obligations by taking their trash to NABORS.</p> <p>He said 90 percent of the businesses in Baxter County are locally owned and depend on the environment in some fashion. He asked for more time to allow the alliance a chance to protect the landfill and the environment.</p> <p>“This is in our back yard,” Bodenhamer said.</p> <p>Board chairman Tim McKinney said he didn’t believe there was enough time to save the landfill as it is “bleeding money.”</p> <p>He also said he didn’t think Baxter County voters were likely to pass a sales tax to basically subsidize trash service for other counties in the district, who would only be paying tipping fees. Osmon said NABORS would consider reducing tipping fees to \$34 dollars a ton, down from \$42, if the other counties agreed to take their trash back to NABORS.</p> <p>NABORS manager Jason Kincade said the only way the landfill could continue operating was with that flow from all counties. He said the landfill wouldn’t be operating by June without the flow control.</p> <p>Bodenhamer asked that the board give the alliance until June 26, when the special election on the sales tax could be held.</p> <p>McKinney said he took some criticism for commenting last June that he didn’t think the alliance’s plan was feasible. He said there had been no plan for a sales tax election until the last minute.</p> <p>“And, folks, we’re up against the wall right now,” McKinney, also Berryville mayor, said.</p> <p>“Mayor,” Osmon responded, “I find this cruelly amusing.”</p> <p>Osmon said Carroll County took all of its business away from NABORS, leading to the downfall. <i>(my note: there were many reasons NABORS failed – mostly by mismanagement of the landfill)</i></p> <p>Bodenhamer said it appeared some board members had made up their minds before the meeting, so he moved for the solid waste district to accept NABORS’ plan for more time. Osmon seconded the motion.</p> <p>In a roll call vote, only Osmon, Bodenhamer, Sara Thorne (proxy for Marion County Judge Pete Giles) and Allen Webb (proxy for Bull Shoals Mayor Bruce Powell) voted in favor of the motion. Boone County Judge James Norton, Harrison Mayor Jeff Crockett, Carroll County Judge Sam Barr, Phil Jackson of Eureka Springs, Green Forest Public Works director Buddy Fry, Newton County Judge Warren Campbell, Searcy County Judge Johnny Hinchey and McKinney voted against the motion.</p>
2012	October – The Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District board votes to default on the \$12.3 million bond issue, a first in the state’s history.
2012	November – NABORS Landfill closes, no longer accepting garbage. All but a handful of workers at the landfill and hauling service are laid off.
2013	February – The Environmental Quality Department files suit against the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District for nearly \$2.2 million to be applied to the cost of final closure of one portion of the NABORS Landfill.
2013	April – Bank of the Ozarks files a notice of acceleration against the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District: demanding immediate repayment of the unpaid balance of the \$12.3 million bond issue
2013	July – The Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District board approves the expenditure of \$17,500 for a study to determine the costs of permanently closing the landfill’s active cells, as well as the operational costs for the third party waste management company to operate the landfill
2016	Dec 2, 2016 Nabors Landfill office in Mountain Home burgled

	<p>By JAMES L. WHITE jamesw@harrisondaily.com http://harrisondaily.com/news/nabors-landfill-office-in-mountain-home-burgled/article_29491506-b813-11e6-a765-9f818cc42e60.html Caldwell told board members Thursday that the Nabors Landfill office in Mountain Home was a victim of the burglary. She said she and Pendergrass were going through the office in preparation for the district's court case regarding default on bonds sold to purchase the landfill. Caldwell said she didn't know exactly what was missing, but a former employee had been asked to help ID any district property investigators had taken to the Baxter County Fairgrounds for potential victims to identify.</p>
2016	December – open for bids for construction for closure of NABORS Landfill
2017	<p>April 26 - Pulaski County Circuit Judge Tim Fox ruled Friday afternoon that the receiver could impose the yearly fee to recoup bondholders' money. Under Fox's ruling, the receiver shall cause an annual \$18 fee to be assessed against each residence and business in the solid waste district, which covers the counties of Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties.</p> <p>The service fee will be billed on the yearly property tax bill of residents and business owners in the district. Judge Fox's ruling specifically states that owners of multi-unit residential properties will be charged a service fee for each unit on the property.</p> <p>The \$18 per year service fee would continue until the bondholders were repaid. That could take 20 years or more, unless the district completed its bond repayments early somehow. Once the bond debt is repaid, the service will continue to be collected at the rate of \$2 per year to cover the solid waste district's post-closure needs at the NABORS landfill.</p> <p>Under Arkansas law, the solid waste district may impose fees for its services, bypassing a public vote or individual counties' quorum courts.</p>
2017	May - Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality starts clean-up.
2017	<p>http://www.ozarksfirst.com/news/failed-nabors-landfill-cleanup-project-begins/845564941 Oct 26, 2017 BAXTER COUNTY, Ark.-- A multi-million dollar mess is finally getting cleaned up in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Taxpayers will eventually be footing the bill for the failed NABORS Landfill for decades to come.</p> <p>It's been five years since garbage was last dumped in the overfilled NABORS landfill. "The closure took place with the problems in tact and actually worse," Baxter County Judge Mickey D. Pendergrass said.</p> <p>The group picking up the tab is the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The price tag is \$13-million; that's down from the original estimate of \$18-million. The ADEQ started properly closing the bankrupt landfill in May. Weston Lee is the project engineer. "Currently, the NABORS project is about \$25,000 under budget," Lee said. "As far as being on time, we're actually ahead of schedule by a week and a half."</p> <p>You have to dig deep under the mound of trash to understand where the trouble originated. The landfill was overfilled and didn't meet environmental regulations. Methane gas needed to be regulated and leachate, water with heavy metals, trash, and other potential chemicals, had the potential to leak into groundwater.</p> <p>If left uncontrolled, leachate could have seeped into the soil and ended up at nearby Norfolk Lake, which is a major water supply for the people of Baxter County. The leachate is now properly being drained and hauled to the Springfield Water Treatment Plant in Missouri to be disposed.</p> <p>Three major areas of the landfill are being fixed. First, contract crews relocate the existing waste. "The contractor has drilled gas wells to allow the release of methane to prevent any exposures of that nature," Lee said. "We then graded, sloped, and smoothed out the urban soils."</p> <p>Finally, closure turf is installed with sand infill. The project is expected to be complete in May</p>

	<p>2018.</p> <p>Judge Pendergrass said he's happy to see the progress, but it does come at a cost to people who live in the area.</p> <p>"Somebody's got to pay for it, and that's always been the issue with it," Judge Pendergrass said. The problems at NABORS was inherited by the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District, which includes six counties in Arkansas. The ADEQ took control because the District attempted to file for bankruptcy, but a judge said it couldn't because it didn't exhaust all options to fund the cleanup.</p> <p>Everyone who lives in that district will have to pay back the ADEQ for the work being done now to properly close it. That means if you live in Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton, or Searcy counties, you'll soon pay a yearly fee of \$18 until the \$13-million debt is paid off.</p>
2018	<p>http://www.ozarksfirst.com/news/nabors-landfill-tax-dispute/1026939417</p> <p>Mar 9 2018</p> <p>MOUNTAIN HOME, Ar.-- Residents in six Arkansas counties have received their property tax bills -- but with an extra fee attached.</p> <p>After the Nabor Landfill in Baxter County went out of business six years ago, investors lost a lot of money. Now, property tax owners have been given a court order to come out of their pockets to pay them back. But, many believe the landfill issue is not their problem to solve.</p> <p>"I don't like the 18-dollar fee anymore than any other tax payers do," said Baxter County Judge Mickey Pendergrass, "I have five properties that I'm going to be paying a fee on. So, I get it and I understand it."</p> <p>Judge Pendergrass says taxpayers may catch a break in court. But, is it worth it?</p> <p>"There are some loopholes I think in the court order it appears to me. I'm not a lawyer, I'm not an attorney, I'm not a constitutional attorney. But, I think it's something that the taxpayers could challenge if they see fit. But, that takes money...and 18-dollars a year verses what it's going to cost to get it in front of the Supreme Court to get a constitutional question.. that's what has to be weighed."</p> <p>So, when all is said and done, just how much will this cost the taxpayers?</p> <p>"It's about 11 million dollars owed to the bond holders -- and this court order froze that amount," Judge Pendergrass said.</p> <p>Taxpayers have also been ordered to cover up to 15 million dollars the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality spent closing and cleaning up the landfill. All of this upsets some.</p> <p>But, then there are others like Jim Clarke of Baxter County, who are taking it all in stride.</p> <p>"It's something I would rather not have to pay. But, if it only takes 18-dollars to get the mess cleaned up on my part, I'm certainly willing to pay it."</p> <p>Also in the court order..a two-dollar fee, that taxpayers will have to pay forever, to maintain the landfill property from becoming an eyesore. Judge Pendergrass says it will take almost 20-years to pay back the entire amount owed.</p>