



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

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**Land Protection Branch**

4244 International Parkway  
Suite 104  
Atlanta, Georgia 30354  
404-362-2537

03/25/2026

Alan Thomas  
Decatur County Administrator  
P.O. Box 726  
Bainbridge, GA 39818

**SUBJECT: Site Suitability Notice**  
**Decatur County – US Hwy 27 MSW Landfill**  
**Proposed C&D Unit Lateral Expansion**  
**Permit No.: 043-011D(MSWL)**  
**GEOS Submission ID: 617358**

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Solid Waste Management Program of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has completed its review of the December 30, 2021, *Site Assessment Report for the Decatur County Solid Waste Facility – Proposed C&D Landfill Unit Expansion*, prepared by Innovative Engineering Strategies, LLC (IES).

Based on the data submitted in addition to your application, EPD has determined that the applicable siting standards can be met in accordance with *Georgia Comprehensive Rules and Regulations Subject 391-3-4, Solid Waste Management* (Rules) Rule 391-3-4-.05(1), provided the attached Site Limitations are met. This determination is based on information provided to date for EPD review and is subject to revision prior to permit issuance should errors be found in the submitted information or new information be provided relevant to this determination. This letter denotes only the demonstration of the ability to comply with siting standards for the proposed site and does not constitute approval to begin construction or operation of the disposal site. This letter does not constitute a permit for the proposed solid waste landfill.

Before a permit may be issued for the proposed solid waste disposal site, a Design and Operation Plan (D&O Plan), prepared in accordance with Rule 391-3-4-.07, must be submitted for consideration by EPD.

Additionally, the appropriate governing authority must hold a public hearing regarding the proposed landfill no less than two weeks prior to the issuance of any permit. At least 30 days prior to the public hearing, notices of the public hearing must be posted at the proposed site and advertised in the legal organ of the county or counties in which the proposed solid waste disposal facility will be located. A transcript of the public hearing proceedings and a reaffirmation of zoning consistency must be submitted to EPD prior to a final decision regarding the issuance of a permit for the proposed solid waste disposal facility.

After our review and evaluation of the D&O Plan, and the other required submittals, a Solid Waste Handling Permit will either be issued or denied. This Site Suitability Notice shall terminate upon a final decision to issue or deny the requested permit. Failure to submit to EPD an approvable D&O Plan within one year from the date of this Notice may result in permit denial or termination of the permit application.

Please feel free to contact Beverly Tipton at 470-524-5790 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Cown, Director  
Environmental Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Keith Stevens, Beverly Tipton, William Cook – GA EPD  
EPD Southwest District  
Michael Biers, P.E. – IES

**Site Limitations**  
**Decatur County – US Hwy 27 MSW Landfill**  
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1. The area considered for acceptability includes only that surveyed property boundary identified as “Existing Permit Boundary” on Innovative Engineering Strategies, LLC’s (IES) *Topographic Map of Site, Legal Description and Onsite Jurisdictional Wetlands*, Figure 1-2, dated 12-01-2021.
2. Waste shall not be placed outside of the areas defined by the lines identified as “Existing Waste Unit Boundary” and “Future Waste Unit Boundary” on IES’s *Topographic Map of Site, Legal Description and Onsite Jurisdictional Wetlands*, Figure 1-2, dated 12-01-2021; and “Proposed Limits of C&D Landfill Expansion,” on IES’s *Map Showing Areas Favorable and Unfavorable for Only C&D Waste Landfilling*, Figure 4-1, dated 12/28/2021.
3. A liner and leachate collection system shall be constructed under all areas proposed for municipal solid waste disposal. The bottom of the liner system of the municipal solid waste landfill cells shall be constructed a minimum of five feet above the seasonal high groundwater contours shown on IES's Sheet 3 of 14, *Topographic Map of Site*, dated March 2019 and edited 09/06/19. The bottom of the C&D waste cells shall be constructed a minimum of ten feet above the seasonal high groundwater contours shown on IES's *Potentiometric Map for Unconfined Aquifer*, Figure 2-5, dated 12/28/2021.

As an alternative to placing waste a minimum of five feet (MSW waste) or ten feet (C&D waste) above the groundwater contours referenced above, an underdrain system may be constructed beneath all areas proposed for waste disposal. The design engineer shall make periodic inspections of the underdrain system during construction and shall certify that the underdrain system is designed to prevent groundwater elevations from rising to within five feet of the bottom-of-waste elevations at any point between the drain lines.

4. A minimum 200-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundary and the permitted property boundary.
5. A minimum 500-foot buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundary and any adjacent residences and/or water supply wells in existence at the time of Site Limitations issuance.
6. A minimum 25-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal area and any on-site springs, intermittent or perennial streams, or surface water bodies, except as permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or EPD.
7. If during excavation of the site, any springs or seeps are discovered, EPD shall be notified immediately, and protective designs must be incorporated into the facility's design and operational plans, such that the spring or seep can be incorporated into the facility's groundwater monitoring system.

Any perched groundwater zones encountered during excavation of the site shall be drained entirely, if possible, otherwise an underdrain system shall be required to maintain vertical

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separation from the waste. The outfall of the underdrain system shall be sampled as part of the facility's groundwater and surface water monitoring plan.

8. If non-rippable rock (bedrock) is encountered at an elevation above the approved base of the waste unit, or if non-rippable rock is removed during excavation, at least five (5) feet of clean, compacted, rubble-free fill shall be placed above the non-rippable rock. Alternatively, an engineered layer (soil or a combination of soils and geosynthetics) shall be placed and compacted between the non-rippable rock and the base of the waste unit. The engineered layer shall include:
  - a. One (1) foot of soil with a hydraulic conductivity equal or lower than  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/sec constructed over one (1) foot of structural fill, or
  - b. If a geosynthetic is used, the geosynthetic will have a hydraulic conductivity equivalent to or less than one (1) foot of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  cm/sec soil and will be placed on a minimum of two (2) feet of structural fill.

Installation of an alternative engineered layer over rock shall be documented and certified by a Professional Engineer (PE) or Professional Geologist (PG) registered in the State of Georgia and shall be included in the Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) report for the cell being constructed.

9. A minimum 50-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundaries and all wetlands, except as permitted for impacts by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and allowed by EPD. A statement certifying that the landfill has been designed so that implementation of the Design and Operational Plan will not impact wetlands delineated on July 29, 2021, and shown in the Design and Operational Plan shall be submitted. This statement shall be signed and stamped by the PE responsible for the Design and Operational Plan for the subject site. Wetland areas shall be delineated on the Design and Operational Plan.
10. All erosion control measures shall conform to the *Erosion and Sediment Control Act* and *Georgia Comprehensive Rules and Regulations Subject 391-3-4 Solid Waste Management* (Rules) and be protective of all perennial and intermittent streams and tributaries. Runoff from the entire facility must be routed at all times, either directly or via properly designed conveyance systems, to permanent sediment control impoundments.
11. The facility shall not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain, or result in a washout of solid waste or material to pose a hazard to human health and the environment.
12. All soil borings, monitoring wells, and piezometers that have been completed/installed at this site shall be plugged and abandoned, except for those locations that will be used as monitoring wells for the proposed landfill. Abandonments shall be performed in accordance with the

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Water Well Standards Act. Additionally, all soil borings, monitoring wells, and piezometers located within the proposed waste footprint shall be abandoned by over-drilling and filling with a non-shrinking cement/bentonite grout mixture via tremie pipe from the bottom to within 10 feet of the base of the landfill. The remaining borehole shall be filled with hydrated bentonite. The abandonment of all borings/piezometers/monitoring wells shall be supervised by a PG or PE registered to practice in the State of Georgia. A report documenting the abandonment shall be submitted to EPD prior to cell construction. This documentation shall be signed and stamped by the responsible PG or PE registered to practice in the State of Georgia.

13. Groundwater, surface water, and methane monitoring systems shall be installed at the site. The groundwater monitoring system shall include some wells completed in bedrock. Foliation and joint orientation and lineament analysis shall be considered in determining bedrock monitoring well locations. Sampling parameters, sampling schedules, monitoring well construction, and spacing shall adhere to the guidelines established in the 1991 EPD document, *Georgia Manual for Groundwater Monitoring*, the September 2021 EPD document, *Monitoring of Surface Water and Underdrain Systems at Solid Waste Facilities*, the September 2015 EPD document, *Methane Monitoring at Solid Waste Disposal Facilities*, and current USEPA Region IV guidance. The system design and monitoring requirements shall be detailed in groundwater, surface water, and methane monitoring plans that are prepared in accordance with *Georgia Comprehensive Rules and Regulations Subject 391-3-4 Solid Waste Management* (Rules), the guidance documents mentioned above and are approvable by EPD.
14. The existing ponds located within future waste unit boundaries must be drained, and soil backfilled to the prior surface water elevations. This structural fill must be constructed a minimum of five feet above the seasonal high groundwater contours shown on IES's Sheet 3 of 14, *Topographic Map of Site*, dated March 2019 and edited 09/06/19, and must meet requirements in the construction quality assurance plan of the Design and Operational Plan.