

# Georgia Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

Report for Fiscal Year 2020



**Environmental Protection Division**

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

**January 2021**

# Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

The Hazardous Site Response Act (Act), enacted in 1993, authorizes the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to clean up hazardous sites that threaten human health and the environment. This law enables EPD to use the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) for hazardous site assessment, remediation, and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups.

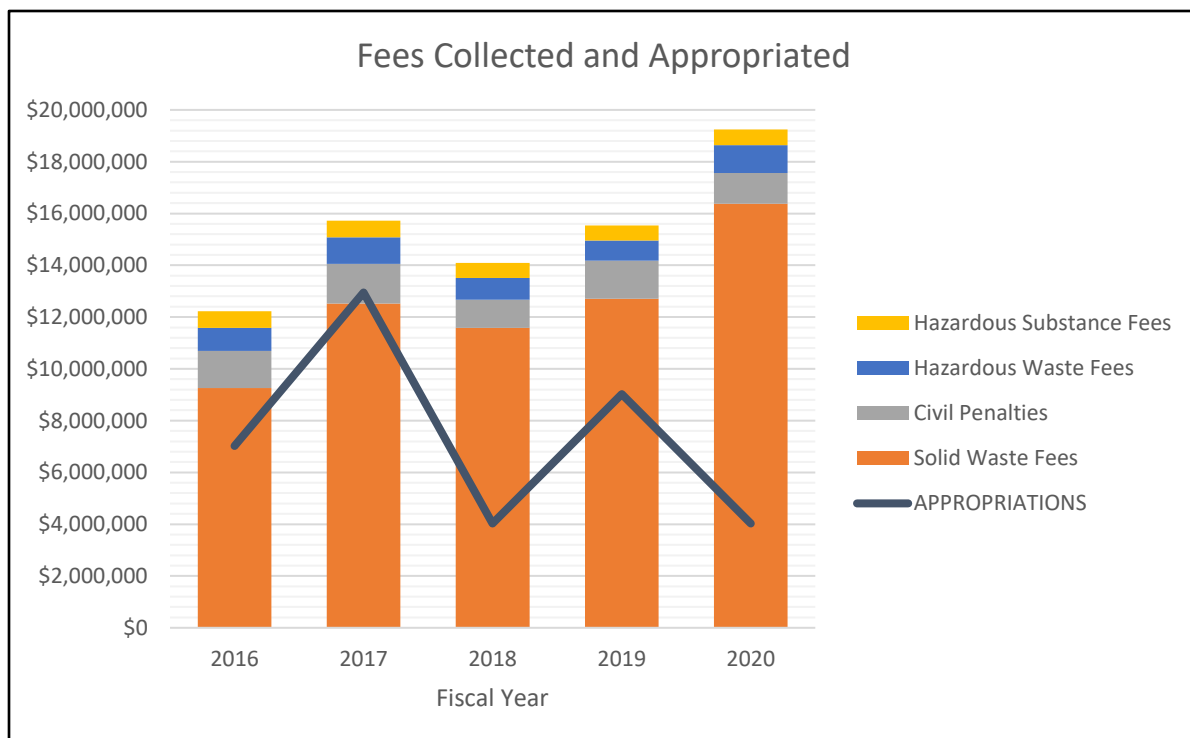
The HWTF is funded by fees collected from industry and government agencies that produce, handle, and dispose of solid wastes and hazardous wastes, and from fines collected from violators of certain environmental laws. As shown in the chart below, most funding is from a tipping fee of \$0.75 per ton of waste disposed at landfills throughout the State. The hazardous waste/substance fees are assessed based on the volume an entity generates and/or releases, and Georgia's smallest generators are excluded.

Each year, the fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to EPD, whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee. In the FY20 legislative session, the tipping fees were re-authorized through July 1, 2025. The hazardous waste/hazardous substance fees are currently authorized through July 1, 2022.

## Appropriations

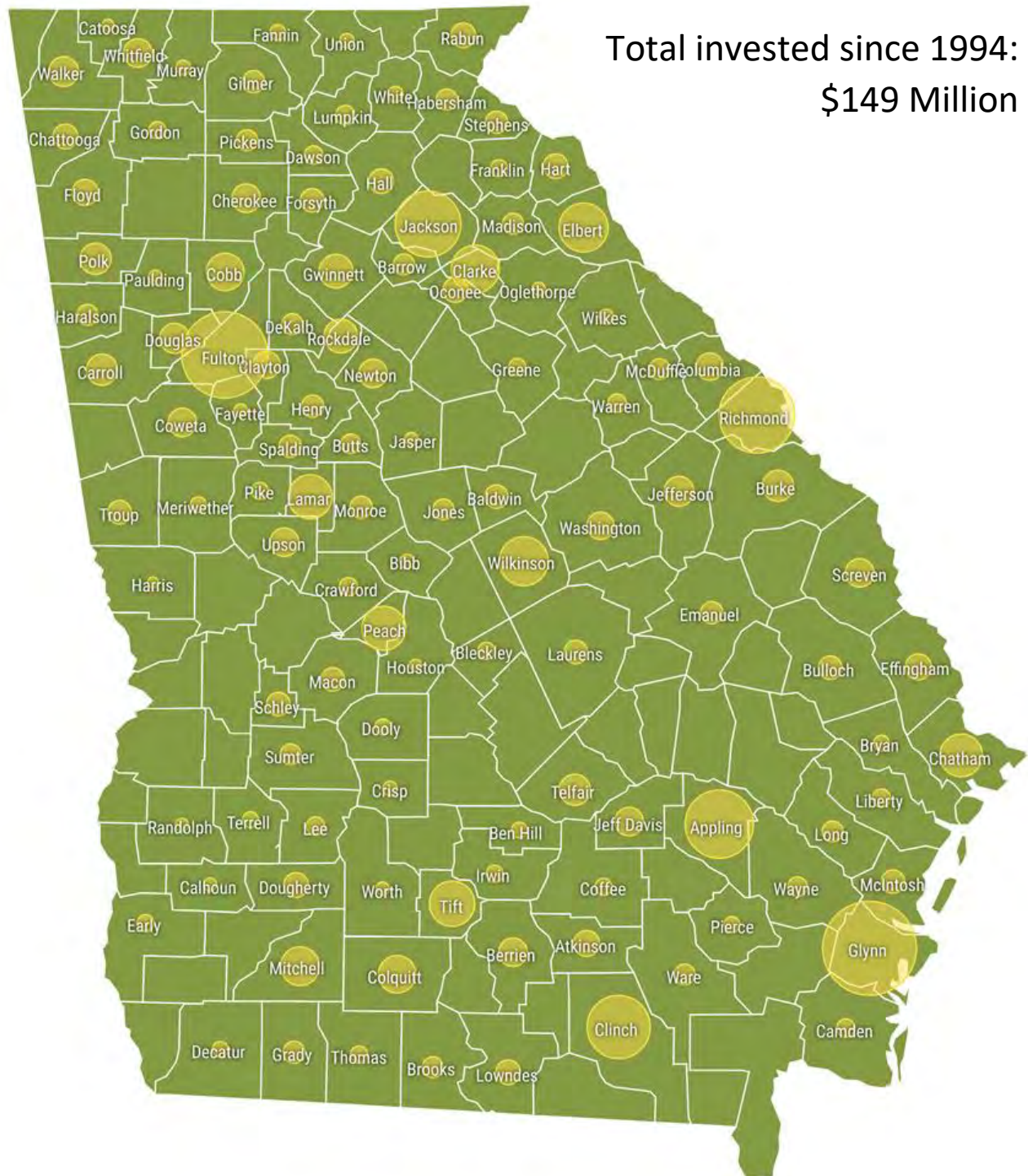
The General Assembly appropriated \$4,027,433 to the HWTF for FY20 for hazardous site assessment, remediation, and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups. In June, the General Assembly appropriated \$8,344,246 for FY21.

Beginning in FY20, EPD is required under the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the HWTF; this report fulfills that requirement.





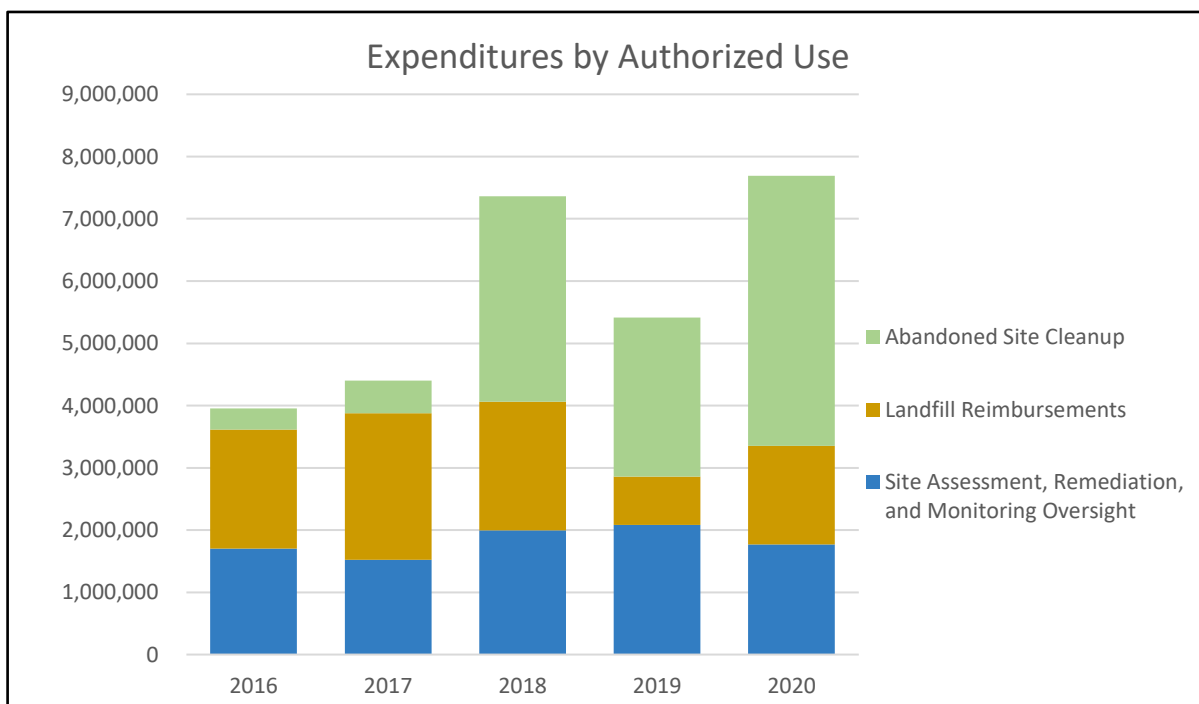
## HWTF Spending per County



## HWTF Expenditures

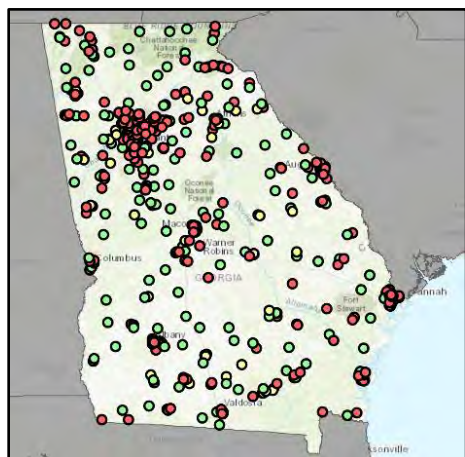
Under the Hazardous Sites Response Act (commonly referred to as the state superfund law), EPD discovers hazardous sites, publishes this information on the Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI), and works with entities who caused the contamination to clean them up. EPD uses the HWTF to help local governments and state agencies investigate and clean up their sites and to investigate and clean up abandoned sites throughout Georgia. Benefits of these actions include the following:

- Communities are made aware of contamination and potential exposure pathways in their area and may access tools and information to help prevent exposure.
- Local governments are provided with funding to assist in cleanup of leaking landfills.
- Bankrupt/abandoned contaminated sites are cleaned up or made ready for development, minimizing the risk of additional contamination, blight and missed economic development opportunities.
- Private party cleanups are monitored to ensure steady progress to help prevent continued spread of contamination and the possible creation of additional abandoned sites.
- Property transactions are able to continue due to regulatory certainty provided by EPD review of “due diligence” reports.



# Site Assessment, Remediation and Monitoring Oversight

## Hazardous Site Inventory



Map of HSI sites

Each year on July 1, EPD publishes the HSI, which is an inventory of the state's hazardous waste sites. The HSI gives the public detailed information about site location, the type(s) of contamination present at the site, and the cleanup status. An interactive map with site profile information and links to individual site summaries can be accessed on the EPD website.



Chemical Storage; Former Jebco Inc, Release Notification Warren County

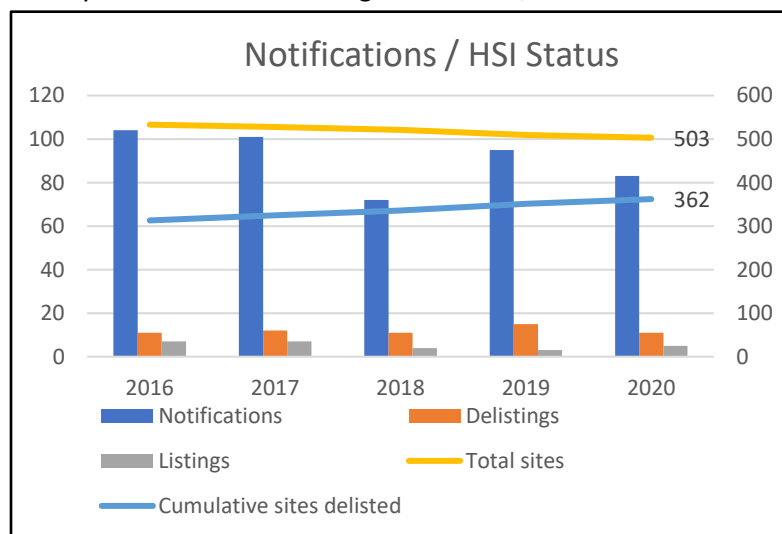
## Release Notifications, Listings, and Delistings

When a release of a regulated substance is discovered in soil or groundwater, the property owner determines if EPD notification is required. After receiving a notification, EPD uses a numerical scoring process which factors the toxicity and physical state of the substance, the proximity to nearby residents and drinking water wells, and access to the release. If the threshold for either soil or

groundwater is exceeded, the site is placed on the HSI. EPD may also place a site on the HSI if the site otherwise poses a threat to health or the environment.

Sites listed on the HSI are required to meet the state's clean-up standards, and once applicable clean-up standards are met, EPD removes the site from the HSI. At the end of FY20, 503 sites were listed on the HSI.

In the past, sites may have been listed with incomplete scoring information,



or without exploring other avenues for cleanup. More recently, EPD has deferred scoring to allow sufficient data to be acquired, to allow pre-scoring cleanup to occur, or to allow the site to be enrolled in the Brownfield or Voluntary Remediation Program, when appropriate. These actions typically result in a similar cleanup, but with lower costs and timeframe for both the property owner and the State.



## Community Outreach and Highlights from FY20

Throughout the year EPD provides outreach to communities by attending stakeholder events and community meetings, as well as providing technical assistance to the public. These are a few highlights from FY20:

- EPD is working with Region 4 EPA as they oversee the Westside Atlanta Lead Cleanup Project, to ensure that state laws are followed, and cleanup standards are met. EPD has attended several EPA internal and Public Meetings designed to provide the community with information. EPD also coordinated closely with EPA and an HSI site owner in the impacted area to provide EPA utilization of the property and resolution of site issues.



*Excavation of soil contaminated by lead. Westside Atl.*



- Members of the EPD met with State, Region, County, and City government officials to present an update on the HWTF Contract cleanup project at the Agri-Cycle Site HSI #10948 in Talmo, Jackson County. The meeting was followed by a site visit to allow representatives to see progress and consider future property use.
- Release Notifications are commonly reviewed by the public. EPD has utilized staff and interns to scan historical notifications to allow for digital access. That work has been especially helpful in providing digital files to GORA requests during the transition to remote work near the end of FY20. EPD has also implemented a COVID-19 notification processing protocol to allow work to continue for notifications received during the pandemic.
- RRP attended an Atlanta Beltline public meeting to provide an update on the status of the ESB, Inc. site. A lead-acid battery manufacturer formerly operated at the site, which is listed on the HSI. The site is adjacent to a section of the Beltline currently being developed in southwest Atlanta. The meeting was well-attended with more than 130 public participants.



*Former ESB loading dock adjacent to Atlanta Beltline.*

## Site Assessment, Remediation and Monitoring Oversight Success Stories

EPD received a release notification for the **Silos at North Farm Marketplace** (Fulton County) after volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from former dry cleaning operations were found in soil and groundwater beneath a music school in the shopping center. Vapor intrusion risks from the VOCS were also identified. The property owner requested additional time to complete corrective action, and EPD issued a deferral of the site scoring. A supplemental release notification submitted by the property owner documented the corrective action, which included removal of contaminated soil and installation of a depressurization system to control vapor intrusion. The completion of corrective action prior to site scoring aided in the sale of the property, and a prospective purchaser worked with EPD to develop a remedial strategy to address the remaining impacts. The property was entered into the Brownfield Program shortly after without the need to list the property on the Hazardous Site Inventory.



*Vapor intrusion remediation system installation, Fulton County*



*View of field overlying the unpermitted landfill.*

After the discovery of an unpermitted landfill (4.5-acres) in Muscogee County, site assessment confirmed soil and groundwater contamination related to the **Bradley Circle Landfill**. The site is located near residential neighborhoods, playgrounds, and the Chattahoochee Riverwalk utilized by the general public. The current owner, Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG), provided EPD with a Release Notification and the site was listed on the HSI in FY20.



*Playground and residence adjacent to landfill.*

Although the placement of the site on the HSI might appear problematic for CCG, the listing can provide financial relief to CCG by utilizing the HWTF for reimbursement of expenses related to site assessment and remediation of the landfill. Utilization of these funds further provides peace of mind to both nearby homeowners and to the general public that this matter will be addressed in a timely manner.



## Success Stories (Cont'd) - Sometimes It Takes a Village



*Linda's Cleaners circa 2008 Dekalb County*

The **Linda's Cleaners** site in DeKalb County consisted of the former Linda's Cleaners (0.4-acres) and the Candler Forest property (17.3-acres). The site was listed on the HSI in 2002 for a release of chlorinated solvents used in the former dry cleaner operations. The Linda's Cleaners building has been demolished, and the property is currently paved and used for parking. The Candler Forest property is an undeveloped, wooded parcel that was impacted by dry cleaning solvents migrating into groundwater and surface water. Both properties have been enrolled in Georgia's Brownfield Program, and soils since certified as meeting cleanup standards.

The Responsible Party (RP) for the Linda's Cleaners site exhausted funds in 2009. With no financially viable party, the site was added to the HSI Abandoned Site list. In 2019, representatives of both properties agreed to enter the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). Because both owners had received limitations of liability for the groundwater contamination, EPD staff utilized existing file data to compile a VRP Application, which was used to enroll the properties, and subsequently delist them from the HSI. This extra effort by EPD saved HWTF dollars, removed an abandoned site from the HSI, and increased the potential for property redevelopment / economic impact, all while ensuring protection of the public and environment.



*Tributary to Doolittle Creek, Dekalb County*



*Augusta MGP Site, HSI 10132, Richmond County. As part of a lengthy historic Manufactured Gas Plant cleanup, Atlanta Gas Light worked with the community to relocate the former Trinity CME church, allowing extensive remediation to occur in FY20.*



## Landfill Reimbursement

The Act provides for reimbursement of eligible local government costs in the investigation and remediation of solid waste handling facilities listed on the State HSI or the Federal National Priorities List. Fifty-percent of the tipping fees that are appropriated are made available for these costs in accordance with the Act.

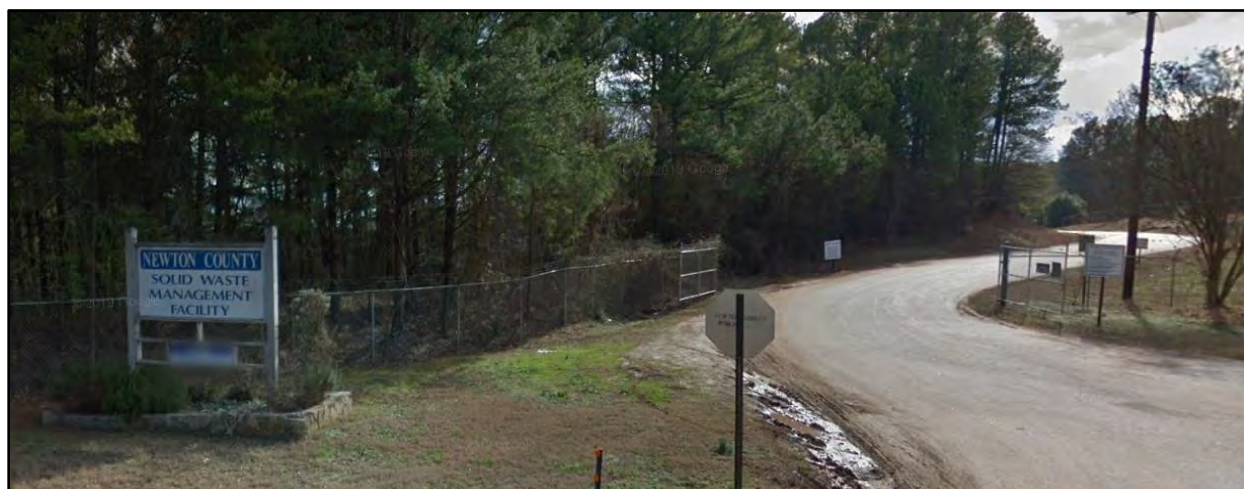
- Up to \$2,000,000 per site is provided for addressing the unexpected costs of leaking landfills such as enhanced monitoring and corrective action. The funding does not provide for routine post-closure care (PCC) at permitted facilities, such as capping or basic monitoring. However, for landfills closed prior to permitting requirements, these costs may be eligible.
- Private landfills that have been abandoned may be eligible for PCC funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund, and/or corrective action using the HWTF.
- In FY20, EPD reimbursed local government costs from nine HWTF applications for a total of \$1.6 Million. To date, over \$46 Million has been reimbursed from the HWTF.



HSI #	SITE NAME	FY20 REIMBURSEMENT
10678	Newton County	\$336,067
10853	Worth County	\$14,697
10685	Upson County	\$30,100
10461	Stephens County	\$44,425
10669	Jefferson County	\$16,980
10664	Gilmer County	\$79,851
10678	Newton County	\$1,019,101
10718	City of Sugar Hill	\$15,100
10282	Glynn County	\$24,449

*Pictured above: Aerial view from Google Maps of a portion of the 273 acres that comprise the Newton County Landfill HSI 10678.*

*Pictured below: Entrance from Lower River Road to the Newton County Landfill HSI 10678.*



# Abandoned Site Cleanups



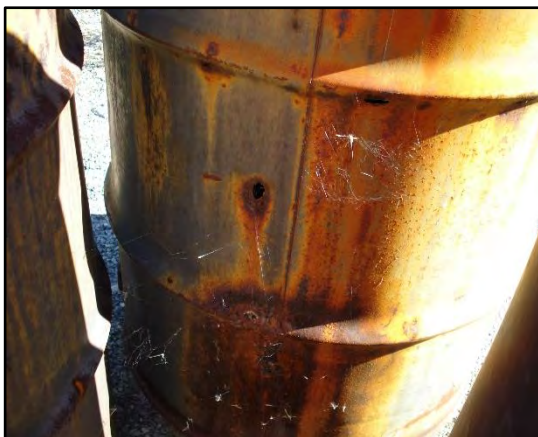
*Agri-Cycle HSI 10948; Jackson County*

When a responsible party fails to perform corrective action, EPD may utilize the HWTF and then attempt to recover the cost of cleanup. There are currently 62 sites on the HSI that are classified as abandoned. The total cost estimate for investigation and corrective action of these 62 sites is over \$80 Million.

EPD conducts ongoing reviews of all abandoned and inactive sites and ranks those sites for enforcement and funding in accordance with a site prioritization model.

In FY20, EPD oversaw HWTF Contractor activity on 19 abandoned sites, spending \$4.3 Million.

FY20 Abandoned Site Cleanups	COUNTY
Muse Scrap Metals	Carroll
Franklin Street Site	Cobb
Palmetto Tire Fire	Coweta
Whittingham Carnell	Dekalb
Wallace Lake Road Dump	Douglas
Martin Fireproofing Georgia, Inc.	Elbert
Swainsboro Electro Plating, Inc.	Emanuel
O'Neill Manufacturing, Inc.	Floyd
Escambia Treating Company - Brunswick (NPL Site)	Glynn
Ben Gober Landfill	Gwinnett
Agri-Cycle	Jackson
Forstmann & Company, Inc. (Old Burn Pit)	Laurens
North Georgia Agricultural Services, Inc.	Madison
Pelham Phosphate Company	Mitchell
Escambia Treating Company - Camilla (NPL Site)	Mitchell
Murrow Brothers Delinting Waste	Oconee
Cedartown Battery Site	Polk
Gravel Pit Road Ditch	Richmond
W. F. Harris & Sons Wood Preserving	Upton



*Drums are often discovered at abandoned sites. Above: Swainsboro Electroplating, HSI 10703; Emanuel County; Right: Muse Scrap Metals, HSI 10413; Carroll County*



## Abandoned Site Success Story



*Martin Fireproofing during operations, Elbert County*



*Excavated area of contaminated soil by facility building*

**Martin Fireproofing Georgia, Inc.** used a 17-acre site in Elberton for the manufacturing of roof deck panels from 1968 through the mid-2000s. The panels were constructed of a concrete-coated wood that was treated with a sodium pentachlorophenate (PCP) preservative.

Burning of the wood-treating waste resulted in elevated concentrations of dioxins and furans identified at the facility and adjacent properties. Dioxins are highly toxic and pose a risk to public health. Elbert County Primary School and residential properties are located directly to the southwest and southeast.

The property was listed on the HSI in 1994. The responsible party conducted some investigation, but eventually became insolvent, and the site became abandoned. In 2016, EPD assigned a state contractor to begin assessment to address dioxin concentrations in the soil at approximately 3000x the residential clean-up standard.

Sampling also confirmed that soil contamination extended off-property; including exceedances in an area of the Elbert County Primary School playground formerly used as a garden, an adjoining residential property, and two adjoining industrial properties. Excavation was conducted at Elbert County Primary

School in October 2016, shortly after identifying the issue.

Removal activities continued on the residential property, the adjacent industrial properties, and the source property, with site work complete in May 2020.



*Soil excavation in school yard.*

EPD filed a lien on the property in Elbert County for approximately \$4 Million to recover HWTF expenses. EPD is coordinating with Elbert County regarding tax foreclosure, execution of an environmental covenant, and lien negotiation to allow for removal from the HSI and property redevelopment.

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For additional information, please contact  
EPD's Response and Remediation Program at 404-657-8600 or visit  
[epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/hazardous-waste](http://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/hazardous-waste)  
[epd.georgia.gov/hazardous-site-inventory](http://epd.georgia.gov/hazardous-site-inventory)