



Richard E. Dunn, Director

Land Protection Branch

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Suite 104
Atlanta, Georgia 30354
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03/15/2021

Josh Hawkins, County Manager
Oglethorpe County Government
P.O. Box 261
Lexington, Georgia 30648

**SUBJECT: Site Suitability Notice for
Oglethorpe Co., Athens Rd C&D, Phase II Landfill - Proposed Expansion
Permit Number 109-003D(C&D), Submittal ID: 450896**

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

The Solid Waste Management Program of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has completed its review of the *Site Suitability Report for Vertical Expansion Oglethorpe County – Athens Road Construction and Demolition (C&D) Landfill, Phase II, Permit No. 109-003D (C&D), Addendum 2* prepared by Atlas Technical Consultants (Atlas), dated December 18, 2020.

Based on the data submitted in addition to your application, EPD has determined that the applicable siting standards can be met in accordance with Chapter 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 Operational Plan (D&O Plan), prepared in accordance with Chapter 391-3-4-.07(1), must be submitted for consideration by the 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.

Mr. Josh Hawkins
Oglethorpe County Government
Oglethorpe Co. Athens Rd C&D, Phase II LF Expansion
Page 2

After our review and evaluation of the D&O Plan, and the other required submittals, a Solid Waste Handling Permit will be either 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 Design and Operational Plan within one year from this date may result in permit denial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Dunn".

Richard E. Dunn, Director
Environmental Protection Division

Attachment

cc: Jim Guentert, Keith Stevens, John Sayer, William Cook EPD
Russell Small, Atlas
EPD NE District - Athens

Site Limitations
Oglethorpe County- Athens Rd C&D, Phase II Landfill
Proposed Expansion
Page 1 of 3

1. Waste shall not be placed outside of the area created by the combination of the lines identified as “existing limit of waste – C&D Phase II Landfill” and “footprint of the proposed C&D Phase II vertical expansion area” as shown on Atlas Technical Consultant’s (Atlas), Figure 2, titled *Grading Concept Plan* dated 10-22-20.
2. The bottom of waste shall be kept a minimum of 15 feet above the groundwater elevation contours shown on Atlas’s Appendix 8, *Oglethorpe County Phase II Landfill, Potentiometric Surface Map, May 2020*, dated 10-23-20.
3. A minimum 500-foot buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundary and any adjacent residences and/or water supply wells.
4. A minimum 200-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundary and the permitted property boundaries.
5. A minimum 75-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundaries and the tributary to Grove Creek located along the southern boundary of the C&D Phase II Landfill as shown on Atlas Figure 2, *Grading Concept Plan* dated 10-22-20.
6. 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 1×10^{-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) of 1×10^{-5} cm/sec soil and will be placed on a minimum of two (2) feet of structural fill.
7. If during excavation of the site, any springs or seeps are discovered, precautions should be taken to implement protective designs into the facility’s design and operational plans. Also, the spring or seep should be incorporated into the facility’s groundwater monitoring plan.

Site Limitations
Oglethorpe County- Athens Rd C&D, Phase II Landfill
Proposed Expansion
Page 2 of 3

8. A minimum 50-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the waste disposal boundaries and all wetlands, except as permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and allowed by EPD. A statement certifying that wetlands will not be impacted because of construction activities at the site shall be submitted. This statement shall be signed and stamped by the professional engineer responsible for the Design and Operational Plan for the subject site. Wetland areas shall be delineated on the Design and Operational Plan.
9. All erosion control measures and/or diversion ditches shall conform to the *Erosion and Sediment Control Act* and be protective of Grove Creek and all its intermittent and perennial tributaries.
10. 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.
11. This site is in a seismic impact zone as defined in the Rules for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 391-3-4-.05 (1) (g)). The design engineer must certify that all containment structures are designed to resist the maximum horizontal ground acceleration for the site. Therefore, the registered professional engineer preparing the design and operational plan must stamp and sign each engineering drawing with the accompanying notation:

I have reviewed the information presented in this drawing, and in my professional opinion, all containment structures are designed to resist a maximum horizontal ground acceleration of 0.12g in 250 years.

12. All soil borings, monitoring wells and piezometers that have been completed/installed at this site, shall be plugged, and abandoned in accordance with the Water Well Standards Act. Additionally, all soil borings, monitoring wells and piezometers located within the proposed waste footprint shall be abandoned by overdrilling 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 professional geologist (PG) or professional engineer (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 professional geologist or engineer registered to practice in the State of Georgia.

Site Limitations
Oglethorpe County- Athens Rd C&D, Phase II Landfill
Proposed Expansion
Page 3 of 3

13. Groundwater, surface water, and methane monitoring systems shall be installed at the site. The groundwater monitoring system shall include bedrock wells to monitor possible fracture zones and lineaments. Sampling parameters, sampling schedules, monitoring well construction and spacing shall adhere to the guidelines established in the EPD's *Rules of Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4*. The system design and monitoring requirements shall be detailed in a groundwater and surface water monitoring plan and methane monitoring plan that are prepared in accordance with the Georgia Manual for Groundwater Monitoring, EPD's September 2015 document, "Methane Monitoring at Solid Waste Facilities" and current USEPA Region IV guidance and are approvable by EPD.