**For Immediate Release July 23, 2015**

**State Funds Available to Clean Up Scrap Tire Dumps**

ATLANTA, GA – The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) today announced the availability of funding from the state Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) to clean up illegally dumped scrap tire piles around the state.

Local governments and solid waste authorities can apply for funding to cover the cost of transporting and processing scrap tires that have been removed from identified, state-listed dumps where the owner is either financially unable to clean up the tires, unknown, or the local government has determined that the property owner is a victim of illegal dumping. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and awarded first come, first served, contingent on funding availability and demand.

Funding for the program comes from the state Solid Waste Trust Fund, which was established in 1990 as part of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. In 1992, an amendment to the Act established a primary source of funding for the SWTF in the form of a $1.00 fee on every new tire sold in the state. Each year, fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to EPD.

For more information on this funding opportunity, including how to apply, visit epd.georgia.gov/scrap-tires.

- 30 -

The **Environmental Protection Division** of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is a state agency charged with protecting Georgia’s air, land, and water resources through the authority of state and federal environmental statutes.