

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, under the authority of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act, O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-60, et. seq., as amended, announces its intent to renew Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-041(S&T) issued to the University of Georgia (UGA) located in Athens, Georgia. If renewed, the permit will continue to require the permittee to conduct investigation and corrective action to remediate releases of hazardous constituents into the environment.

EPD issued Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-041(S&T) to UGA on June 12, 1987 for the storage of 5,500 gallons of hazardous waste in containers and for the treatment of 1,000 gallons per year of heavy metal aqueous solutions. UGA certified clean closure for the heavy metal evaporation unit in 2007. In 2018, UGA certified clean closure for the remaining hazardous waste storage areas. Between 1969 and 1979 UGA operated a solid waste landfill, the Milledge Avenue Landfill ("Landfill") located in Athens, Clarke County Georgia. The Landfill was a disposal site for laboratory waste from UGA. The renewal permit, if approved, will require UGA to re-evaluate their corrective action approach and submit a new plan for corrective action at the Milledge Avenue Landfill.

A draft renewal permit has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Rules, Chapter 391-3-11, which contains the conditions for the investigation and corrective action of known and any discovered releases of hazardous constituents into the environment from previous operations at the facility. The draft permit does not allow for disposal of hazardous waste on-site.

Before making its final decision on whether to issue the renewal permit, state and federal regulations require that the EPD provide an opportunity for public comment. Accordingly, a public comment period has been arranged for October 4th, 2019 through November 22nd, 2019. During the public comment period, a copy of the draft renewal permit and supporting documents will be available for public review at the following locations during regular business hours:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Land Protection Branch
Hazardous Waste Management Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
East Tower, Suite 1054
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

and

Athens-Clarke County Library

2025 Baxter Street
Athens, GA 30606
Phone: (706) 613-3650

EPD invites comments during the public comment period to be made in writing or by email at EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us. If you choose to email your comments, please be sure to include the words "UGA, Athens Permit Renewal" in the subject line to help ensure your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. The applicant and those persons who submit written comments or request notice of the final permit decision will be notified of the final permit determination made by the Director of EPD. EPD will announce any substantial changes in the final determination by public notice. All comments received on or before November 22nd, 2019 will be considered when the final decision to issue or deny the renewal permit is made. Written comments should be forwarded to the following address:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Attention: Mike Elster, Unit Coordinator
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
East Tower, Suite 1054
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Any questions regarding the permit application, the renewal permit or the public participation process should be addressed to Mike Elster at 404-657-8624.