

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-001(CA) issued to SAFT America Inc. (SAFT) located at 711 Gil Harbin Industrial Boulevard, Valdosta, Georgia 31601. If approved, the permit renewal will require the permittee to conduct investigations and corrective action to remediate releases of hazardous constituents into the environment.

SAFT is a manufacturer of nickel-cadmium cells and batteries and nickel capacitors. As a result of the operations at the facility, SAFT generates waste streams containing cadmium, nickel, sodium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide. SAFT also receives, stores, and handles spent batteries and batteries returned for evaluation and disposition from its customers. Liquid waste streams are collected and processed through an on-site wastewater treatment system. Hazardous waste generated during the wastewater treatment plant operations, batteries received as returns from customers, and all batteries to be recycled are stored in a permitted storage area. SAFT was initially issued Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-001(S&T) in 1983 for the storage of hazardous waste in containers, and the treatment of hazardous waste in tanks. The permit was subsequently modified in 1990 to incorporate requirements for the investigation and corrective action of releases of hazardous constituents into the environment from previous operations at the facility. Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-001(S&T) was re-issued on December 23, 1993 and again on November 19, 2002 for the storage of hazardous waste in containers, the treatment of hazardous waste in tanks, and the investigation and corrective action of releases of hazardous constituents into the environment from previous operations at the facility. Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-001(S&T) was renewed on September 29, 2014 and those requirements were continued.

In 2022, SAFT closed its permitted hazardous waste storage area after receiving permission from EPD to no longer manage the sludges generated at their facility (i.e. Dried Wastewater Sludge, ECC Ditch Sludge, and Nitrate Filter Cake) as hazardous waste based on 40 CFR 261.2, Table 1, which excludes materials, when reclaimed, from regulation as a solid waste. All these materials have been sold for their metal content and reclaimed for over three decades. This hazardous waste storage area was certified as being cleaned and closed in accordance with Saft's Permitted Hazardous Waste Storage Area Closure Plan on December 15, 2023.

A draft permit renewal has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-11, which contains the conditions for the ongoing investigation and corrective action of 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 November 25, 2025 to January 14, 2026. During the public comment period, a copy of the draft renewal permit and supporting documents will be available for public review online at <https://epd.georgia.gov/public-announcements-0/land-protection-branch-public-announcements> and 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
Floyd Towers East, Suite 1058
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

and

McMullen Southside Library
527 Griffin Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
Phone: 229-253-8313

EPD will schedule a public hearing on the draft renewal permit if a request for one is received by the Director before the close of the public comment period.

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 "SAFT Permit Renewal" in the subject line to help ensure your comments are forwarded to the correct staff. All comments received on or before January 14, 2026 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:

Attention: Sharon Priyadarshini, Treatment and Storage Unit Manager
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
Floyd Towers East, Suite 1058
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Any questions regarding the permit application, the renewal permit or the public participation process should be addressed to Sharon Priyadarshini at 404-657-8600 or sharon.priyadarshini1@dnr.ga.gov.