

Georgia Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

The Hazardous Site Response Act (Act), which was 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, manage, 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.

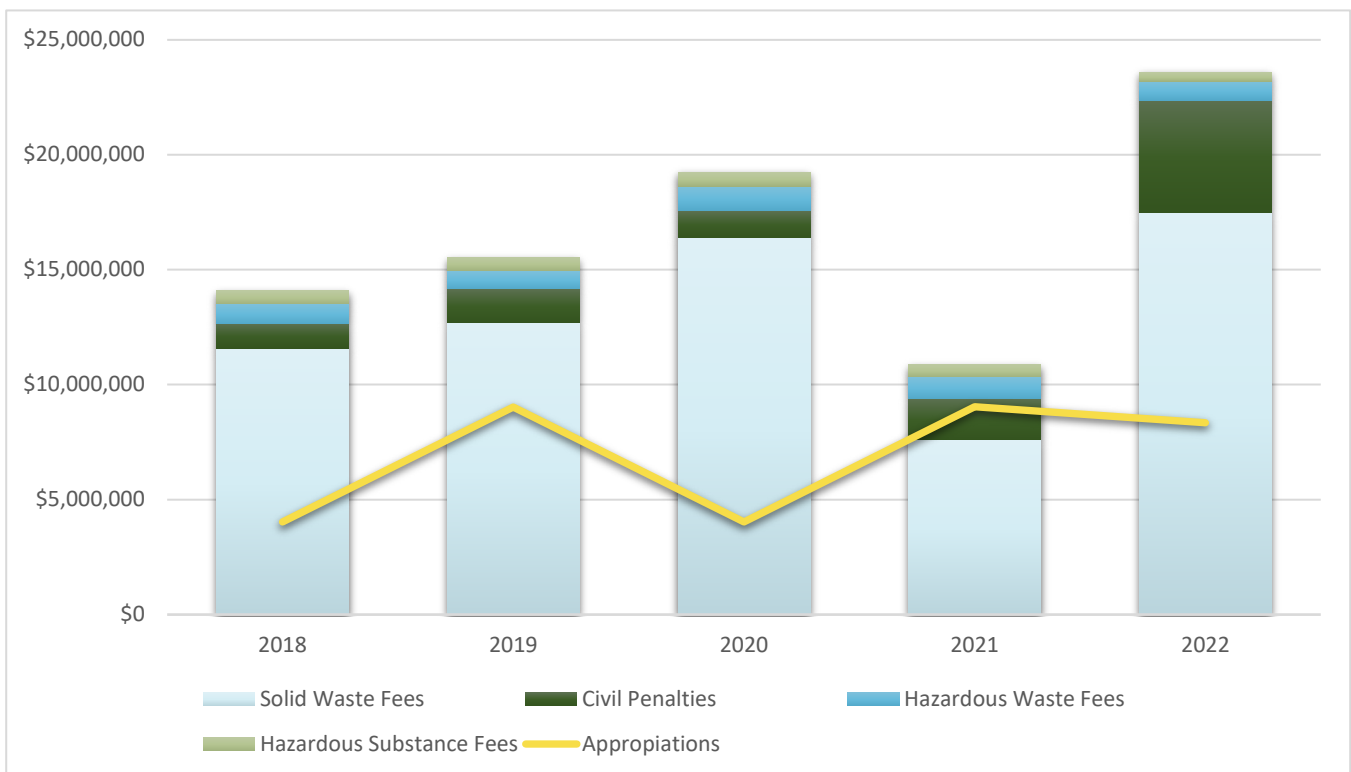
Historically, the fees collected were subject to appropriation by the General Assembly to EPD, whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee. Beginning with FY23 and continuing for the next decade, tipping fees are automatically dedicated to the HWTF. The other fees and fines remain subject to legislative appropriation, and the hazardous waste/hazardous substance fees were authorized through July 1, 2027 in the FY22 session.

Appropriations

The General Assembly appropriated **\$8,344,246** to the HWTF for FY22 for hazardous site assessment, remediation, and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups. Tipping Fees dedicated for use in FY23 total **\$7,620,376**.

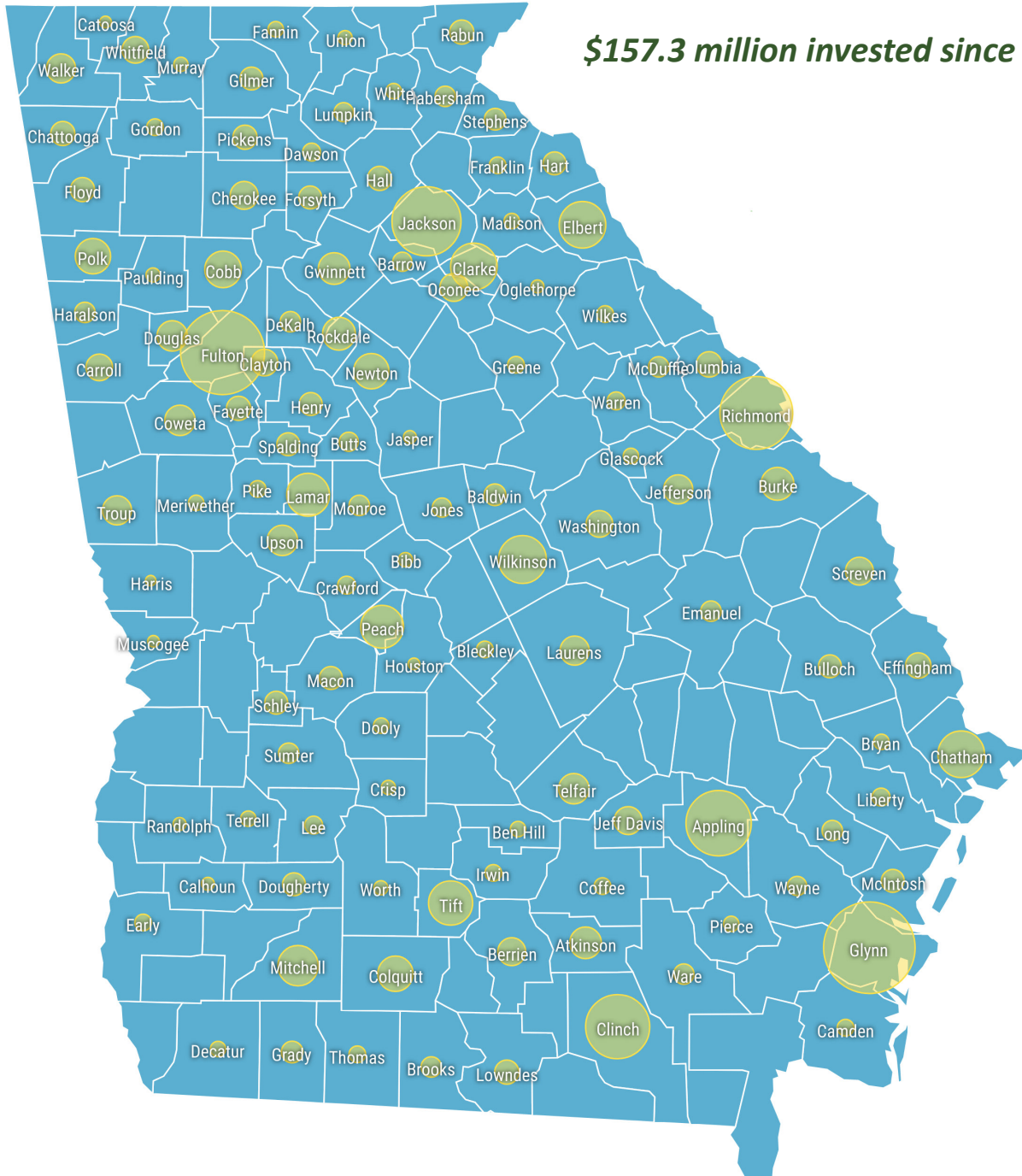
EPD is required under the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the HWTF; this report fulfills that requirement.

FY18-FY22 Fees Collected and Appropriated



Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

HWTF Spending by County

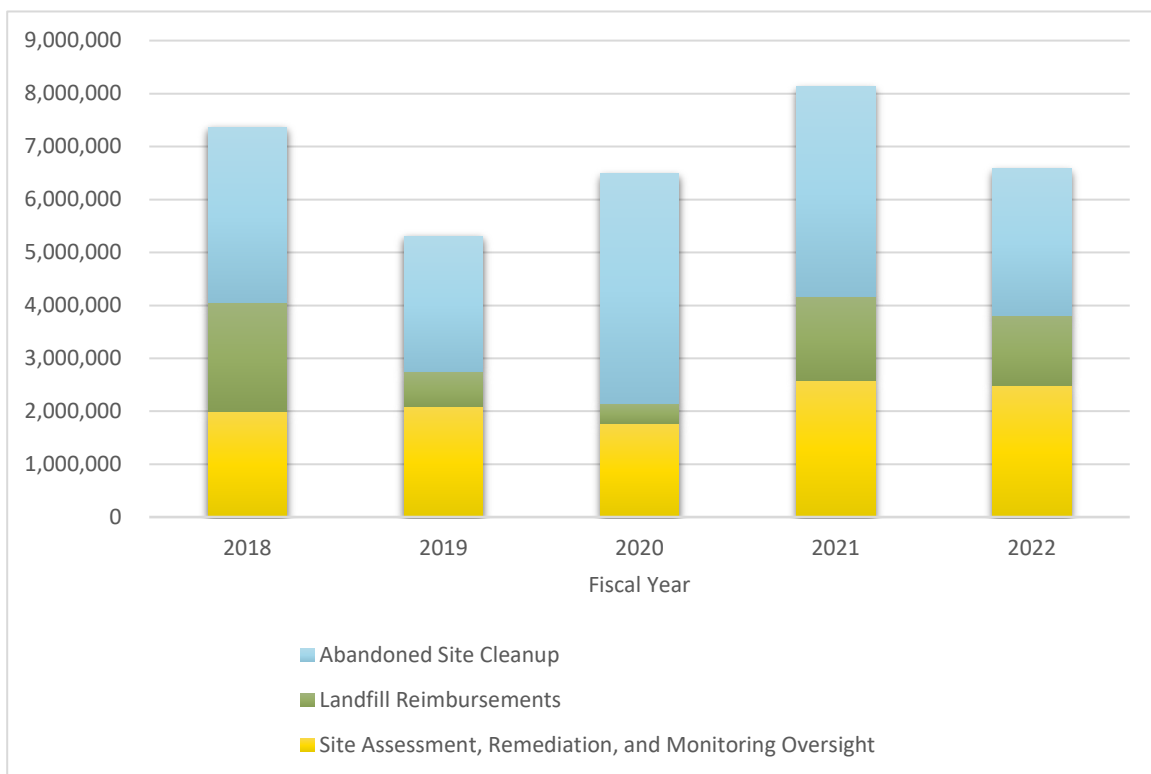


HWTF Expenditures

Under the Hazardous Site 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.

Expenditures by Authorized Use



Community Outreach and Highlights from FY22

Throughout the year EPD provides outreach to communities by attending community meetings as well as providing technical assistance to the public. These are a few highlights from FY22:

- In an effort to increase local government reimbursements, EPD updated its policy on landfill gas (LFG) remediation costs, increasing **reimbursement eligibility** from **50%** to **100%**. EPD sent a letter to all County Commissioners and to registered Responsible Officials for publicly operated solid waste facilities, notifying them of funding availability and of the recent policy change. The related FAQs were updated and are available on EPD's [website](#).
- EPD provided technical assistance to the family of a former chemist in Cherokee County. The deceased chemist left a chemical stockpile of hundreds of containers requiring removal and disposal from his residence. EPD's response was a joint effort with local safety officials, the EPD Emergency Response Team, as well as the Response and Remediation Program. The executor of the estate was then able to utilize a waste disposal firm to properly manage and dispose of the materials.
- When EPD utilizes the HWTF to investigate and cleanup abandoned sites, a lien is typically placed on the property to recover costs. During FY22, EPD negotiated lien settlements with non-responsible parties and collected partial reimbursement for two properties to allow the properties to return to productive use. EPD received payments of **\$166,161** for the Former Circle K Store #7703 property in Chatham County, which was remediated and removed from the HSI in 2009; and **\$23,254** for the Wolfskin Subdivision property in Oglethorpe County, which was removed from the HSI in 2018.
- EPD published the [Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion Exposure Pathway](#) document on August 31, 2021. Vapor intrusion occurs when volatile compounds migrate from contaminated groundwater or soil into the indoor air of an overlying or nearby building. For many sites, this is the most likely exposure scenario, so this document provides a critical guide to evaluating potential hazardous vapor migration and determining when additional corrective action is needed. The guidance was developed with a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of EPD Staff and outside experts, followed by modifications based on public comment.
- EPD's Response and Remediation Program hosted an Atlanta Beltline Brownfield Bike Tour during National Bike Month. The tour was an opportunity to interact with the local community and learn more about several site investigations and cleanup projects that have come to fruition along the eastside of the Beltline.

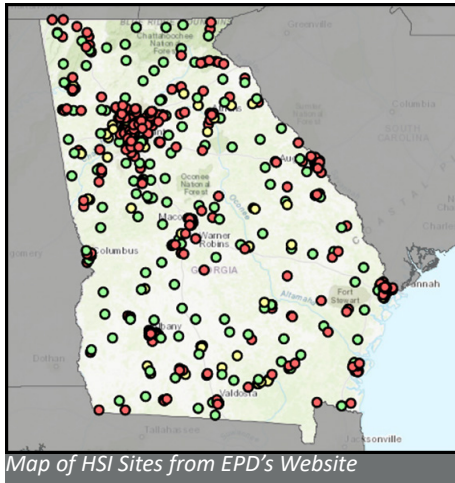


Chemical stockpile located within the Cherokee County chemist's refrigerator



2022 Atlanta Beltline brownfield tour

Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight



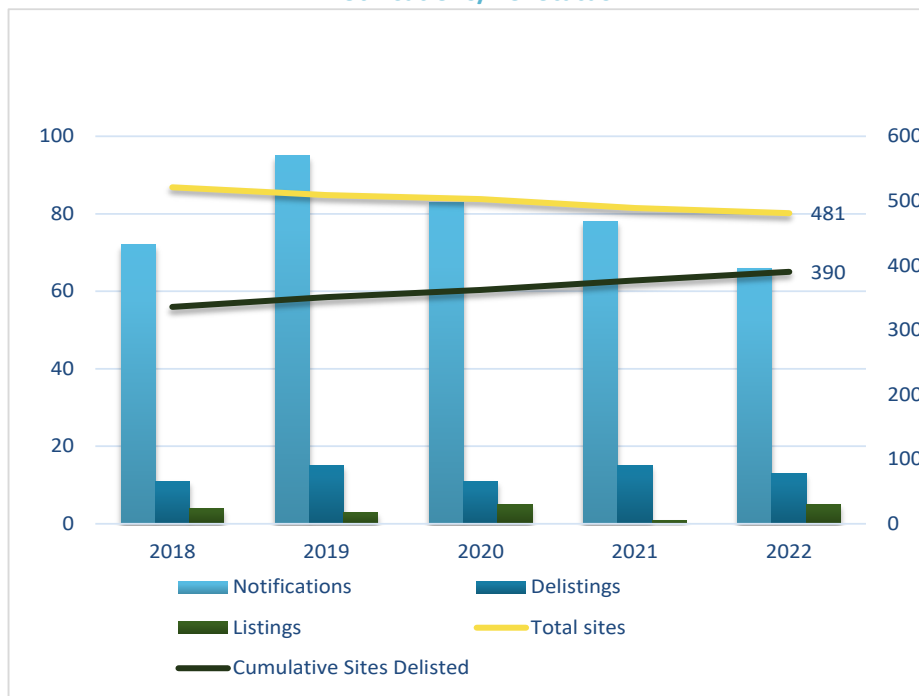
Hazardous Site Inventory

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](#).

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, or if the site otherwise poses a threat to public health or the environment, the site may be placed on the HSI.

Notifications/HSI Status



Sites listed on the HSI are required to meet Georgia clean-up standards, and once applicable clean-up standards are met, EPD can remove the site from the HSI. At the end of FY22, **481** 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 (BF) or Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP), when appropriate. These actions typically result in a similar cleanup, but with lower costs and timeframe for both the property owner and the state.



Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Drums Dumped on Roadside

The **Rosewood Lane Abandoned Drum Site** was a project where the Response & Remediation Program (RRP), the Emergency Response Team (ERT), and the West Central District Office collaborated to properly dispose of numerous abandoned drums that were dumped on the side of Rosewood Lane in Meriwether County. Using Hazardous Waste Trust Funds, a state contractor properly characterized, containerized and disposed of the abandoned drums. The drums were determined to be hazardous waste and were shipped to an approved facility in Alabama. By utilizing the HWTF, EPD was able to ensure the dumped material was properly managed and that Meriwether County was not responsible for these costs.



Abandoned drums on Rosewood Lane in Meriwether County

Metal Plating Fire

RRP and ERT worked together to address a fire emergency at the Valence Surface Technologies facility (Valence) in Eastman, Dodge County. The Valence facility is a metal-plating and painting facility for a variety of aerospace parts. The facility contains large quantities of corrosive substances used for metal plating operations. A fire event took place in March 2022 and was quickly addressed by the local fire department. However, due to the large amount of corrosive substances that may have been released to the environment, ERT also responded to the scene. Subsequent rounds of sampling at nearby residential wells and the city municipal well were completed, as well as soil sampling in areas where substances may have spilled onto the soil. RRP provided technical review of the data collected by Valence and ERT and made recommendations to address data gaps. Valence removed waste liquids and impacted soils, and subsequent environmental investigation demonstrated that regulated substances did not exceed Georgia notification concentrations. EPD teams worked together to assure the City of Eastman that their drinking water remained safe after the incident and that the property was properly cleaned up after the fire.



Fire damage on the main production building at the Valence Facility in Dodge County

Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Enforcement

After being alerted through a call to emergency services, Catoosa County officials, Georgia EPD, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) responded to a report of dumped and discarded drums at a former chicken farm in Catoosa County. Investigations revealed that Goldstar Investment Group LLC (Goldstar) had purchased a warehouse in Dalton via tax sale. The warehouse contained hundreds of drums and other containers of chemicals, including many containing hazardous waste. Many of those drums and containers were moved to the Catoosa County property and discarded in one of the old chicken houses, with many of the drums left in an open trench to be buried. Contents of the drums were spilled and leaked into the surrounding soil.

The property owner was cited for numerous violations of state and federal laws including illegal transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. The properties were subsequently listed on the HSI as the 455 Virgil Drive (HSI #10959) and 15667 Alabama Hwy (HSI #10960) sites.

The property owner hired an environmental consultant to perform the clean-up, which included characterization and disposal of all drums and substances that had been spilled from the drums. Although the waste has been removed from both properties, soil and groundwater sampling is ongoing. Legal action was taken by the USEPA and the U.S. Department of Justice to hold the Goldstar owner accountable. In mid-June, the owner pleaded guilty to a charge of disposal of hazardous waste without a permit. He was ultimately sentenced to two months in prison to be followed by one year of supervised release and ordered to pay a **\$25,000** fine and restitution in the amount of **\$32,596.93**.



Clean-up conducted at 15667 Alabama Highway Site in Catoosa County



Drums located at 455 Virgil Drive in Dalton



Overtured drums at 15667 Alabama Highway Site in Catoosa County

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 FY22, EPD reimbursed local government costs from **15** HWTF applications for a total of **\$1.3 million**. To date, almost **\$48 million** has been reimbursed from the HWTF. The adjacent chart shows local government reimbursements that occurred in FY22.

HSI Number	Recipient Name	FY22 Reimbursement
10716	City of Buford	\$11,568.75
10679	Pickens County	\$126,649.48
10455	Washington County	\$22,672.05
10179	City of Savannah	\$231,144.98
10853	Worth County	\$9,469.25
10462	Wilkes County	\$67,245.00
10678	Newton County	\$67,333.66
10723	Sumter County	\$29,431.57
10271	Cobb County	\$392,414.61
10272	City of Conyers	\$10,806.44
10718	City of Sugar Hill	\$7,572.95
10679	Pickens County	\$157,037.61
10650	Cherokee County	\$28,065.00
10669	Jefferson County	\$18,594.94
10458	Habersham County	\$140,267.03

Landfill Success Story

A former chemical plant property, **HSI #10641– Tronox/Kerr McGee**, has regained new life with the aid of EPD and the Georgia Brownfield Act, as the **SeaPoint Industrial Terminal Complex** in Savannah. The site had operated since the 1950s processing titanium dioxide (a white pigment used in paint, food and pharmaceuticals) and included an area known as the **Deptford Tract Landfill, HSI #10179**. Dulany Industries, Inc. (Dulany) purchased the entire 1,600-acre tract and deeded over 700 acres of the property to the State of Georgia for Marshland protection/ Fort Jackson buffer. The City of Savannah participated in the necessary corrective action and capping of the old landfill, and has been reimbursed approximately **\$585,000** from the HWTF for associated costs. The closed landfill has been converted to a solar farm and pollinator garden, and Dulany sells the renewable energy under long term contract to Georgia Power. The Brownfield cleanup and marshland restoration efforts for the overall complex are complete, and the site is now home to sustainability-focused firms such as NANTRenwables.



Abandoned Site Cleanups

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 **60** sites on the HSI that are classified as abandoned. The total cost estimate for investigation and corrective action of these **60** sites is over **\$65 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 FY22, EPD oversaw HWTF contractor activity on **19** abandoned sites, spending **\$2.8 million**. Funded contractor activities were completed at **4** of those sites.

Clean Up Success Stories

The **Former W.F. Harris & Sons Wood Preserving Site** (site) is located near Thomaston, Upson County. The site was used for a wood preserving operation, from the mid-70s until 1991. Creosote was initially used as a preservative and later chromated copper arsenate (CCA). Sampling identified constituents of concern in soils including polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), copper, chromium, and arsenic, and the site was listed on the HSI in 1994. Initial remedial activities, conducted from 1998 to 2011 by the responsible parties, included the removal of most of the impacted soils; however, due to lack of funding remediation remained incomplete.

The site was designated as abandoned and prioritized for cleanup. In 2019, a HWTF contractor was used to characterize the remaining areas of soil contamination. Soil remediation plans were developed, followed by the excavation, transport, and disposal of contaminated soils, including portions of an adjacent residential property. A total of approximately **500** tons of soil was disposed of as non-hazardous waste and approximately **17** tons of soil was disposed of as hazardous waste. As a result of the remedial efforts, the soils that remain meet non-residential standards (onsite) and residential standards (adjacent parcel). EPD placed a lien on the property to recover HWTF expenses. The removal of the site from the HSI is pending the property owner's execution of an environmental covenant.

FY 22 Abandoned Site Cleanups	County
Agri-Cycle	Jackson
Berrien Products	Berrien
Brunswick Wood Preserving	Glynn
Bumper Distributors of Atlanta	Fulton
Camilla Wood Preserving	Mitchell
Cedartown Battery Site	Polk
Chem-Am	Troup
Franklin Street Site	Cobb
Linda's Cleaners	DeKalb
Morgan Post Treating Impoundment	Clinch
Murrow Brothers Delinting Waste	Oconee
Palmetto Tire Fire	Coweta
Peach Metal Industries	Peach
Pelham Phosphate Company	Mitchell
Rosewood Ln Abandoned Drums	Meriwether
Truman Parkway, Ph. II	Chatham
Union Timber	Clinch
Wallace Lake Road Dump	Douglas
WF Harris & Sons Wood Preserving	Upson



Excavation at the Former W.F. Harris & Sons Wood Preserving Site in Upson County

Abandoned Site Cleanups

Clean Up Success Stories

The **Wallace Lake Road Dump Site** was an unpermitted landfill utilized during the late 1960s until the early 1970s when the Douglas County Sanitary Landfill opened. In addition to various wastes being deposited in the dump, including drums and chemicals from various local companies, paint wastes were allegedly burned on the adjacent residential property owned by the same person. EPD recently conducted detailed investigations to determine if there were any groundwater or drinking water impacts and if any hazardous materials were buried at the site. These investigations led to the removal of almost **160** tons of soils contaminated with mercury and lead from the site and the adjacent residential property. Further, EPD identified and removed from the burn area near the residence another **200** tons of characteristic lead hazardous waste with concentrations of volatile organic chemicals high enough to produce a flash flame, along with **80** cubic yards of debris including rusted drums, paint cans and car parts. While EPD identified some localized groundwater impacts, investigation of local drinking water wells showed no impacts from the groundwater contamination.



Paint disposal excavation debris at the Wallace Lake Road Dump



Excavation area near residence



Restoration of the excavated area near residence

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Land Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1054, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



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
epd.georgia.gov/hazardous-site-inventory
epd.georgia.gov