

# HAZARDOUS WASTE TRUST FUND

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Fiscal Year 2025 Report



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

# 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, 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 exempted from paying fees.

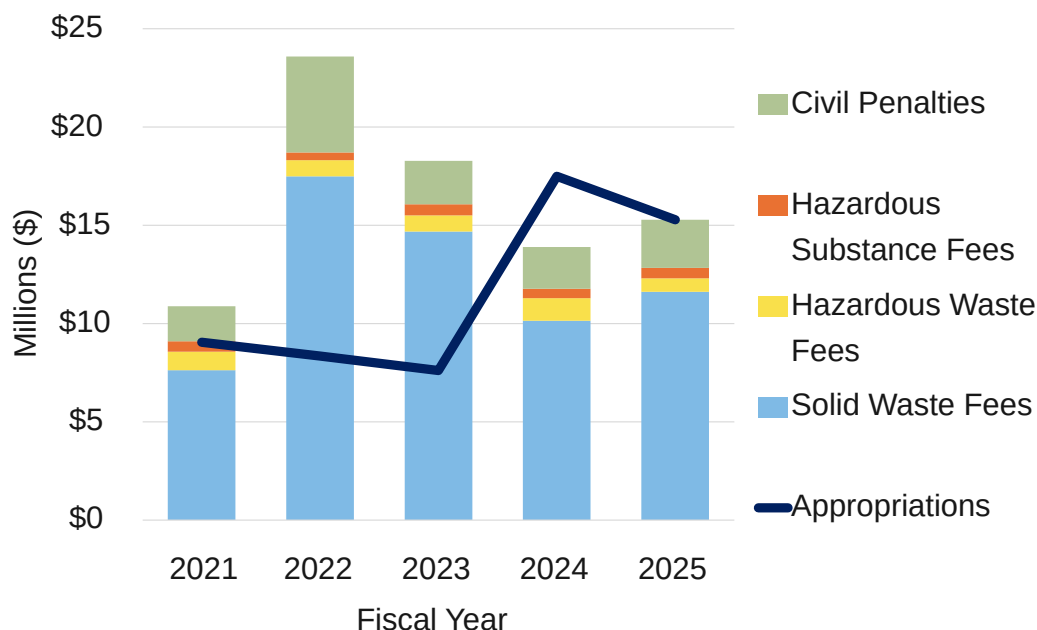
## Dedicated Funding



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. Hazardous waste/hazardous substance fees are also now legislatively dedicated, but civil penalties remain subject to annual appropriation.

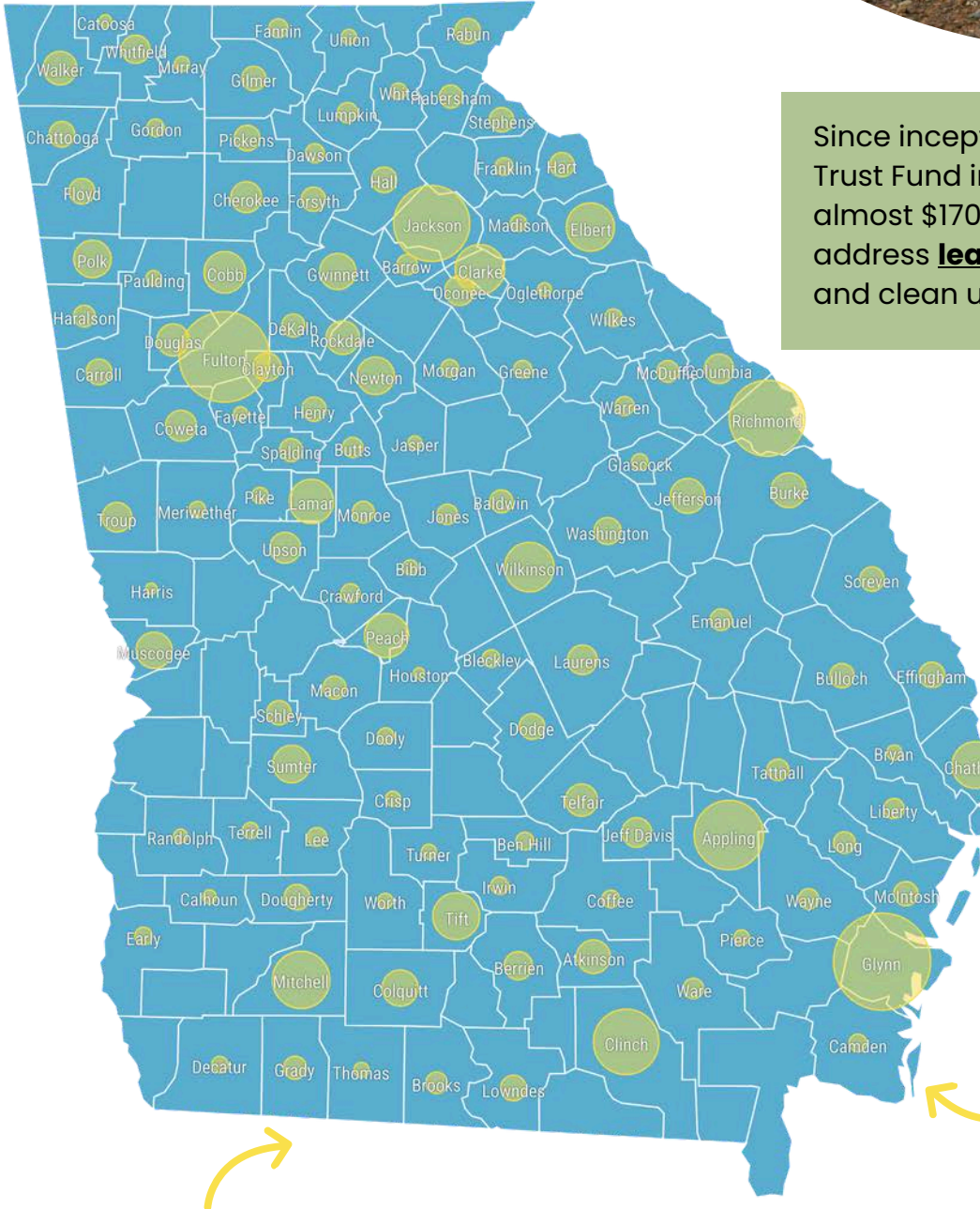
Tipping Fees collected in FY23 and dedicated for use in FY25 total \$14,697,767. Fees collected in FY24 and dedicated for use in FY26 total \$11,771,491. EPD is required under the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the HWTF; this report fulfills that requirement.

Fees Collected and Appropriated





# HWTF Spending per County



Since inception of the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund in 1994, the fund has invested almost \$170 million in local communities to address **leaking landfills** and to investigate and clean up abandoned sites.

Local governments are provided with funding to assist in cleanup of leaking landfills.

Environmental complaints that require corrective action are prioritized to eliminate threats to human health and the environment.

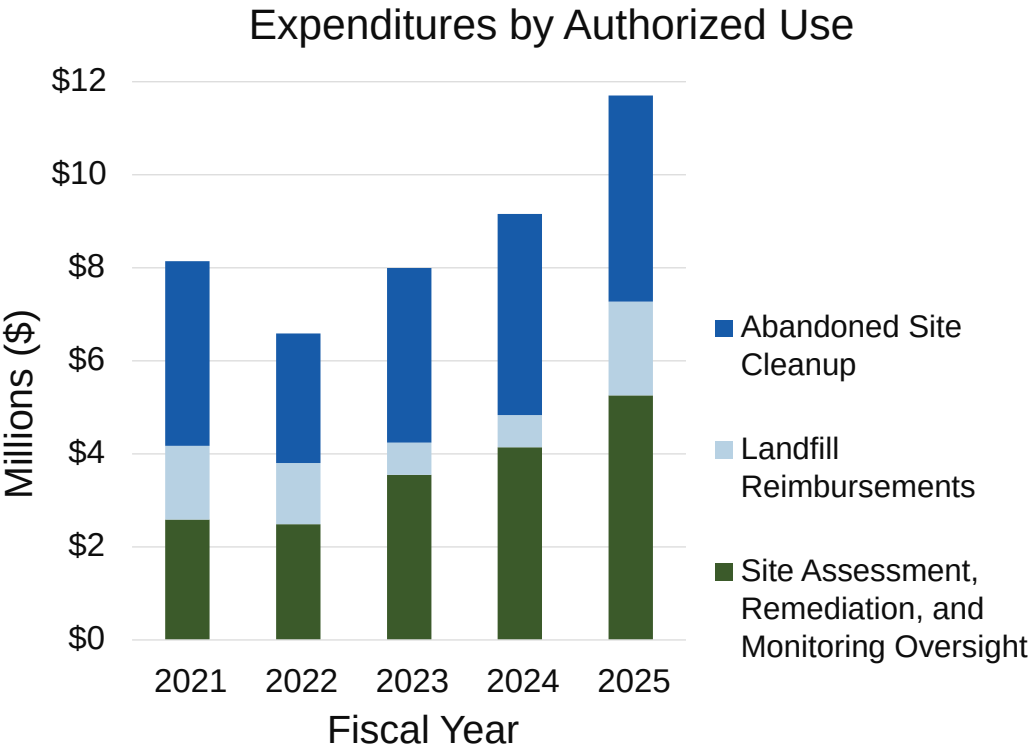
Bankrupt/abandoned contaminated sites are cleaned up or made ready for development, minimizing the risk of additional contamination, blight, and missed economic development opportunities.



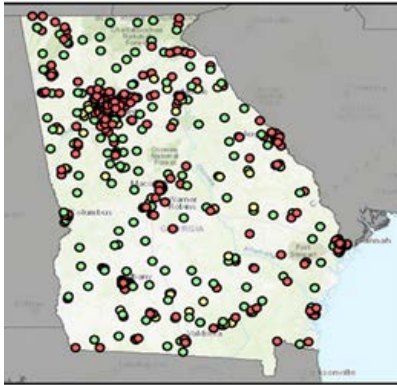
# Expenses by Authorized Use

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 responsible for 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 those listed on the prior page and 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.
- 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 can continue due to regulatory certainty provided by EPD review of “due diligence” reports.



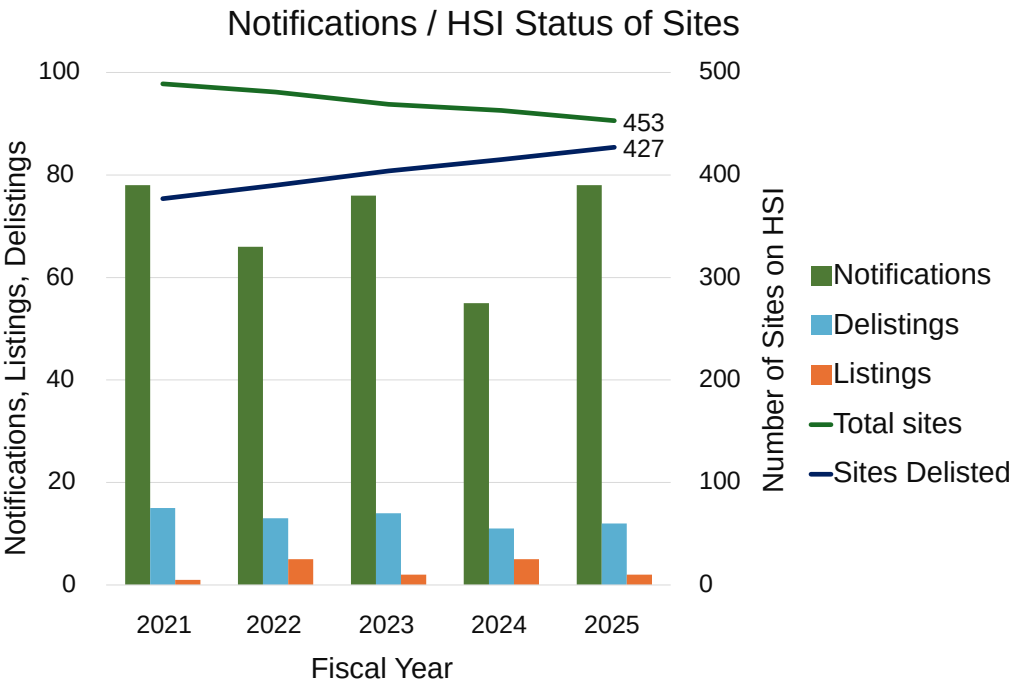
# Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight



## 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](#).

Hazardous Site Inventory location map



## Release Notifications, Listings, and Delistings

When a suspected 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 public 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. 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. For FY25, 453 sites were listed on the HSI. EPD continues to defer HSI listing determinations, when appropriate, to ensure we have accurate data and allow exploration of other avenues for cleanup. These actions result in a similar cleanup, but with lower costs and timeframe for both the property owner and the State.



# Site Assessment, Remediation, & Monitoring Oversight



## Collaboration with Brownfield Properties

Purchasers enrolled in Georgia's Brownfield Program must pay for investigation and remediation (if needed) to demonstrate that source and soil impacts on their property meet cleanup standards. However, the purchaser is not responsible for groundwater, so many of these properties are unable to be delisted because of remaining impacts.



*View of the field at Bumper Distributors HSI No. 10348*

Dry Clean USA (HSI No. 10789) and Love Your Clothes (HSI No. 10790) went through the Brownfield Program in the late 2000's but remained on the inventory because of groundwater impacts. Both sites were recently delisted as EPD's investigation concluded that groundwater met residential standards. Similarly, Bumper Distributions (HSI No. 10348) and A&D Barrel (HSI No. 10170) were able to complete Brownfield requirements in the late 2000's but also remained on the inventory. With the aid of the HWTF, EPD performed groundwater investigations, and the sites were able to delist via enrolling in the Voluntary Remediation Program and utilizing uniform environmental covenants as institutional controls.



**Georgia Power**

## Collaboration in lieu of listing



*View of the Georgia Power's Trenton headquarters*

A 25.5-acre Georgia Power Corporation (GPC) site in Trenton was found to have soil contamination with chrysene above regulatory limits. GPC conducted an assessment and removed about 20 tons of contaminated soil, which was disposed of at a landfill. The area was then backfilled and repaved. Following review, EPD confirmed the cleanup met standards, and the site was not listed on the HSI. Today, it continues to operate as GPC's Trenton headquarters. By working together with Georgia Power, EPD was able to ensure the site met appropriate cleanup values and avoid a listing on the HSI.

# Site Assessment, Remediation, & Monitoring Oversight



## Multi-Program Collaboration

### Tronox Pigments and Deptford Tracts

East and downstream of the Talmadge Bridge and historic Savannah is a 750-acre plot of land along the Savannah River, now known as the SeaPoint Industrial Terminal Complex, that demonstrates how collaboration among state, federal, and private partners can turn legacy industrial areas into valuable properties that contribute to Georgia's economy and energy future.

After years of environmental remediation on two HSI Sites, Dulany Industries, in cooperation with EPD has completed cleanup activities including soil excavation, capping of impacted areas, and long-term groundwater monitoring. The SeaPoint Complex now supports new industrial use including a solar energy installation on the footprint of the former landfill.

In 2022, EPD certified the site as compliant with non-residential cleanup standards and issued a Limitation of Liability under the Brownfield Act. Subsequently, in 2025, EPD confirmed all corrective action requirements had been met and delisted the sites from the HSI marking the transformation of two former industrial sites into a model of safe and sustainable reuse.



*Tronox facility during demolition*



*Current Seaboard Complex after delisting*





# Landfill Reimbursements



## Reimbursements

In FY25, EPD reimbursed local government costs from nine HWTF reimbursement applications for a total of \$2,021,061. To date, \$50 million has been reimbursed by the HWTF. The chart shows reimbursements that occurred within Fiscal Year 2025.



## Tipping Fee

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 allocated to the HWTF are made available for these costs in accordance with the Act.



## Unexpected Costs

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, these costs may be eligible for landfills closed prior to permitting requirements. 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.

HSI Number	Recipient Name	FY25 Reimbursement
10282	City of Brunswick	\$44,911.45
10455	Washington County	\$44,583.04
10461	Stephens County	\$6,375.00
10650	Cherokee County	\$32,865.74
10664	Gilmer County	\$8,392.75
10669	Jefferson County	\$86,604.53
10683	City of Tifton	\$98,810.00
10718	Gwinnett County	\$15,550.89
10723	Sumter County	\$1,682,967.51



# Landfill Reimbursements



## Landfill Success Story



The Paper Mill Road Undeveloped Tract, HSI No. 10863, includes two properties totaling about 17 acres in Lawrenceville, Gwinnett County. From the 1960s through the 1970s, the land was used by the City of Lawrenceville as an unpermitted landfill where household garbage and other debris were dumped. The site was added to Georgia's HSI in 2007 after testing found lead in soil and groundwater. Over the years, residential development increased in the area and the property was slated for residential development in the mid-2000s. Ownership of the property changed several times before the City of Lawrenceville acquired most of it in 2018.

Initial cleanup efforts were limited, but further testing found several harmful substances in areas where waste had been buried. Between 2019 and 2020, the city worked to clean up and secure the site. The full extent of buried waste and debris was identified. A protective two-foot layer of clean soil was placed over the waste areas. Testing was done to ensure no concerning levels of harmful landfill gas were at the site. Additional testing showed that locations outside the capped area were safe and met Georgia cleanup standards. The site was removed from the HSI after deed restrictions were put in place to prevent future residential use, prohibit use of groundwater, and ensure ongoing inspection and maintenance. The City of Lawrenceville received reimbursement from the HWTF for eligible costs in the amount of \$498, 000.00. This site is a perfect example of how the HWTF is used to help local governments.



*View of the Papermill Road Site prior to cleanup and delisting*

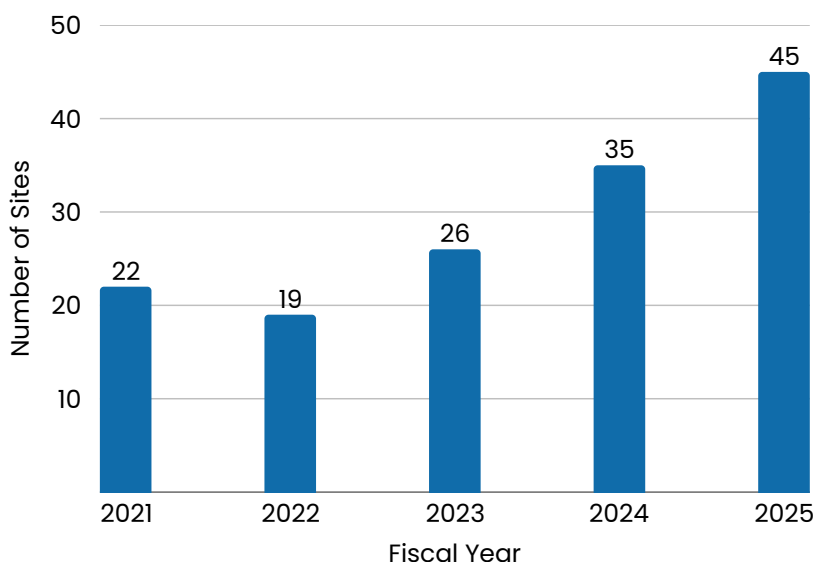
# Abandoned Site Cleanups and Removal Actions

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 62 sites on the HSI that are classified as abandoned. The total cost estimate for investigation and corrective action at these sites is over \$60 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 addition to abandoned sites, EPD performs removal actions at sites throughout the state where a threat to human health and the environment is suspected. As shown in the chart, EPD oversaw HWTF Contractor activity on 45 sites, spending over \$4.4 million, in FY25.



Sites with EPD Contractor Activity



## Support for CHaRM – Athens

The Athens CHaRM facility reached out to EPD about several military-grade DS-2 canisters they had mistakenly accepted. These canisters, once used for decontaminating chemical warfare equipment, had been purchased by an Athens resident at a military surplus sale in the late '90s. Along with the ones dropped off at CHaRM, the resident also had two pallets stored on their property. The canisters were rusted and manufactured circa 1970. EPD used funds from the HWTF to safely dispose of all the canisters, eliminating any future environmental risks.



View of canisters on a pallet at the resident's property

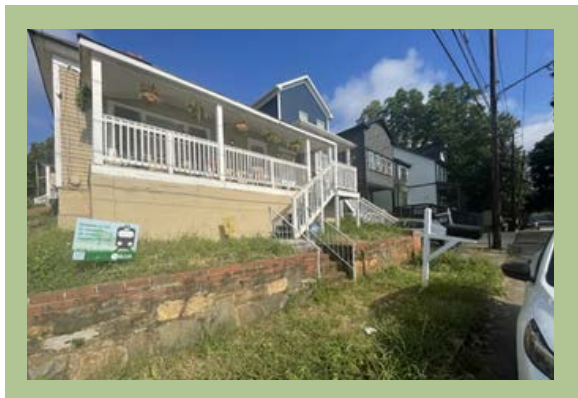


# Abandoned Site Cleanups and Removal Actions



## Lead Impacted Residential Yard Clean-up

EPD assistance was requested for a lead impacted yard in the Summerhill neighborhood of Atlanta outside the scope of EPA’s Westside Lead Project. Lead impacted soil in the area can be traced to Atlanta’s early industrial period, when waste from foundries and other operations was commonly used as fill dirt. Soil testing was completed by the EPD to confirm the results of the SoilShops soil sampling event which identified lead levels above 400 ppm. EPD used funds from the HWTF to excavate and dispose of the lead impacted soil.



Front yard of property



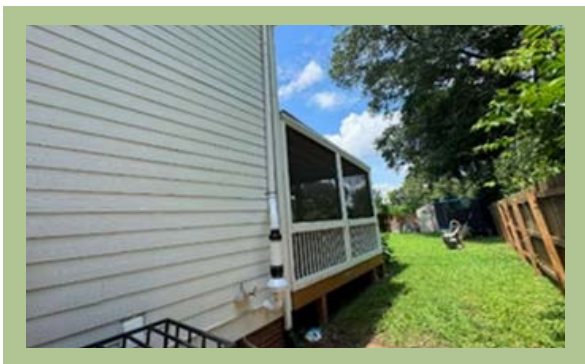
Front yard during excavation

## Residential Vapor Intrusion Mitigation for Residence

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), commonly used in dry cleaning operations, can release harmful vapors into the environment. These vapors may migrate through soil and infiltrate buildings, potentially impacting indoor air quality and posing health risks—a process known as vapor intrusion (VI). In FY2025, EPD’s State contractors used the HWTF to conduct multiple VI exposure pathway assessments. Although vapor intrusion in residential crawl spaces is uncommon, one such case was identified where vapors presented a potential future risk to occupants. In response, EPD oversaw the installation of its first VI mitigation system in a residential crawl space. The system successfully reduced vapor concentrations by 88%, bringing levels well below the EPA’s residential VI screening thresholds.



Canister for collecting indoor air readings in crawl space



Exterior view of blower and vent pipe



# Abandoned Site Cleanups and Removal Actions

## Containment and Treatment of Lead Impacted Wastewater

The Former Exide Battery Site HSI No. 10382 is located at 3639 Joy Road in Columbus, Muscogee County. This 44-acre site was used to make and recycle batteries from 1961 until it closed under bankruptcy in 2020. Industrial manufacturing of batteries throughout the years led to releases of lead to soil, groundwater, rooftops, access roads, driveways, and buildings.

As part of the bankruptcy process, the land and cleanup responsibility were handed over to a special trust fund created for the environmental cleanups of all Exide properties. The trust spent about \$10 million on cleanup efforts before running out of money in early 2024.

At that point, EPD took over the site using funds from the HWTF. Due to EPD's preparedness and cooperation with the trust, no gap in cleanup work occurred. Primary concerns addressed include managing lead-impacted stormwater, continued operation of a groundwater pump and treat system, and site security. To date, EPD has treated over 20 million gallons of rainwater impacted with lead—averaging 100,000 gallons per day in 2024—and pumped out approximately 15 million gallons of impacted groundwater to prevent migration of impacted groundwater off-site. Even during a major hurricane with record rainfall, EPD conducted emergency repairs and upgrades to protect the site and surrounding areas. Impressively, all this work has been accomplished within budget.

The long-term goal is to continue the cleanup so that the land can be safely reused for something that benefits the community. EPD is also looking into potential impacts at adjacent properties.



*Foundation of former lead smelting building*



*Wastewater treatment plant*



*Wastewater Holding Tanks*



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

### **Georgia Environmental Protection Division**

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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](https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/hazardous-waste)  
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