

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY 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 modify Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. HW-041(CA) issued to the University of Georgia (UGA) located in Athens, Georgia. This permit was issued on December 17, 2019 for investigation and corrective action to remediate releases of hazardous constituents into the environment. If modified, the permit will incorporate the final corrective action plan into the permit. The proposed corrective action consists of in-situ chemical oxidation, high vacuum vapor and groundwater extraction, and monitoring.

EPD initially 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. However, 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 and Permit HW-041(CA) was issued to address discovered releases of hazardous constituents to the environment. The modified permit, if approved, will require UGA to implement the May 2022 100% Remedial Design for Corrective Action at the Landfill.

A draft modified permit 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 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 modified permit, state and federal regulations require that the EPD provide an opportunity for public comment. Accordingly, a public comment period has been arranged for March 23, 2023 through May 6, 2023. During the public comment period, a copy of the draft modified permit and supporting documents will be available for public review 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
East Tower, Suite 1058
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

and

University of Georgia
Environmental Safety Division
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: (706) 542-5801

EPD invites comments during the public comment period to be made in writing or by email at epd.comments@dnr.ga.gov. If you choose to email your comments, please be sure to include the words “UGA, Athens Permit Modification” 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 May 6, 2023 will be considered when the final decision to issue or deny the modified permit is made. Written comments should be forwarded to the following address:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Attention: Sharon Priyadarshini, Unit Coordinator
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE
East Tower, Suite 1058
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Any questions regarding the permit application, the modified permit or the public participation process should be addressed to Sharon Priyadarshini at (470) 524-0687.