

Athens-Clarke County Landfill
Fact Sheet

History

The existing Athens-Clarke County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is located at 5700 Lexington Road, Athens, Georgia; approximately 444 acres of land east of Athens on the Clarke County/Oglethorpe County line, with 149 acres permitted for disposal, with an additional 44 acre disposal area in the permitting process (Phase 5). Approximately 92 acres were closed in 2000 (Existing Disposal Areas 1 & 2) and 50 acres (Phases 1, 2 and 3) are active. Athens-Clarke County has owned and operated a municipal landfill at the present site since November 16, 1976. The landfill accepts solid waste not only from Athens-Clarke County, but also from Oglethorpe County, as part of a joint landfill project coordinated by the Landfill Citizen Committee comprised of citizens of both Athens-Clarke and Oglethorpe Counties.

In June 1993, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division approved the ACC Subtitle D Landfill Design and Operation Plan to expand the current landfill and construct Subtitle D landfill cells; issuing ACC its Solid Waste Handling Permit. The expansion was designed to meet the Federal Subtitle D standards. These standards include:

- water and methane monitoring systems,
- an underdrain system (which keeps the water table from rising when peak rainfall occurs and coming in contact with the liner),
- geo-membrane (plastic) liners (which protect against any leachate draining into the soil and eventually into the water table), and
- a leachate collection system (which consists of a leachate gravity sewer, pump stations and storage tanks) The leachate at this landfill is re-circulated back into the landfill.

The expansion also included the construction of landscaping berms to help shield the landfill activities from adjoining properties.

Phase I of the project consists of two (2) stages.

Phase 1, Stage 1

The first portion of the landfill expansion to be constructed was Phase I, Stage 1. This phase was an 11-acre area consisting of three (3) trenches. Phase I, Stage 1, cost approximately \$5.2 million dollars to complete. Series 1993 Bonds were sold to the Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Authority (formed in 1993) to finance the landfill expansion. Phase 1, Stage 1 opened on February 1, 1995 and continued to accept waste until October of 2000; about five and one-half years.

Phase 1, Stage 2

Phase 1, Stage 2 opened in November 2000. This phase was a 12.6-acre area. Phase I, Stage 2, cost approximately \$3.3 million dollars to complete. Phase 1, Stage 2 continued to accept waste until 2005.

Phase 2 of the project opened in the spring of 2005.

Revised May 2017

Phase 3 construction finished fall of 2010. This phase is 11 acres. Phase 3 cost approximately \$3,700,000 to complete and included a relocated scale house as a part of the project. The estimated life of Phase 3 is four years at current disposal rates. Disposal in Phase 3 began August 26, 2013. Although there is a Phase 4 area approved by EPD for landfill use, staff is not suggesting use of that site due to cost and limited disposal capacity. This means Phase 3 will be the final area to be used for landfill disposal in Athens-Clarke County.

Oglethorpe County purchased 79 acres adjoining the current landfill footprint for possible landfill expansion. The purchase was made in June 2008. This 79 acre site has an estimated life of 30 years at current disposal rates and will be considered Phase 5. GaEPD approved the current Design and Operation Plan that includes Phase 5 December 19, 2012. Prior to EPD approval, staff and residents near the 79 acre area completed a Facility Issues Negotiations (FIN) process. This process allowed residents near the landfill the opportunity to request various concessions related to landfill operations and/or other infrastructure needs in the area but not the design elements of the landfill.

Tonnage

The ACC Landfill currently receives about 300 tons of waste each day.

Recycling Activities

The ACC Landfill hosts one of the eleven community recycling drop-off sites for paper, cardboard, bottle and can material. In addition, they also accept hardback books, scrap metal, cooking grease, clothing/shoes, car batteries (\$1 per battery), propane tanks (\$1 per tank) and tires (\$3 per standard passenger/light truck tire, \$10 per commercial truck tire, \$15 per ton bicycle tires and tubes with \$5 minimum) for recycling.

General Information

The ACC Landfill is open Monday – Friday from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM and Saturday from 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM.

The landfill tipping fees for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) are as follows:

- Commercial: \$42 per ton (one ton = 2,000 pounds)
- Residential: \$1.50 per bag for up to six bags
 - Over six bags will be charged at a rate of \$42 per ton

Leaf & Limb Tipping Fees:

- Commercial: \$18 per ton
- Residential: \$18 per ton with a \$5 minimum

Need more information?

Visit us on-line at www.athensclarkecounty.com/solidwaste or call (706) 613-3508.