

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	Order No. 18-XXX-CSW
Geneva County Commission	)	
Geneva County Landfill	)	
Geneva, Geneva County, Alabama	)	
Solid Waste Disposal Permit No.31-08	)	
_____	)	

**PREAMBLE**

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter “the Department”) and Geneva County Landfill (hereinafter “Permittee”) pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16, as amended, and the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act (hereinafter “SWRMMA”), Ala. Code §§ 22-27-1 to 22-27-18, as amended.

**STIPULATIONS**

1. The Permittee operates a construction/demolition landfill in Geneva, Geneva County, Alabama, which is the subject of this Consent Order.
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16, as amended.
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), as amended, and Ala. Code § 22-27-9(a), as amended, the Department is the state agency authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the SWRMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-27-1 to 22-27-18, as amended.
4. On January 14, 2014, the Department issued a renewal Solid Waste Disposal Permit (Permit No. 31-08) to the Permittee for the operation of a construction/demolition landfill (hereinafter “landfill”) located on Landfill Road, Geneva, Geneva County, Alabama.

### *DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS*

5. Based on information received from the Permittee on or about January 31, 2018, and a review of facility records, the Department determined that the Permittee had begun disposal in Cell 9 prior to completing a cell certification and receiving authorization to commence disposal from the Department in violation of the requirements of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-13-4-.23(1)(d), which states that the facility shall be operated in accordance with approved plans and permits.

6. Specifically, Section I.E.12 of Solid Waste Permit No. 31-08, states that the Permittee may not commence disposal of waste in any new cell or phase until the Permittee has submitted to ADEM a letter signed by both the Permittee and a professional engineer stating that the facility has been constructed in compliance with the permit. ADEM must inspect the constructed cells or phases before the owner or operator can commence waste disposal, unless the Permittee is notified that ADEM will waive the inspection.

7. On February 6, 2018, Department personnel conducted an inspection of the facility and documented that waste was being disposed of in the uncertified cell. Based on a review of facility volume records, approximately 250 tons of waste were disposed in the uncertified cell.

8. On February 14, 2018, the Department received the cell certification letter signed by the Permittee and a professional engineer stating that the new cell, Cell 9, had been constructed in compliance with the permit.

9. On February 15, 2018, the Department issued authorization for the Geneva County Landfill to commence disposal in Cell 9.

10. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation,

including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by the Permittee; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon the Permittee; the nature, extent and degree of success of the Permittee's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; the Permittee's history of previous violations; and the ability of the Permittee to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: The Permittee failed to comply with certain provisions of ADEM Admin. Code div. 335-13 and Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 31-08 regarding landfill operations. The Department is unaware of any irreparable harm to the environment, or any immediate threat to human health or the safety of the public as a result of these violations.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: The Permittee failed to employ an appropriate standard of care to ensure compliance with certain solid waste disposal requirements.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Department has been unable to ascertain if the Permittee has realized an economic benefit as a result of the violations noted.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: The Department is unaware of any efforts employed by the Permittee to mitigate potential effects upon the environment that may have been created as a result of the violation listed.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: The Permittee does not have a history of similar violations.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: The Permittee has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Consent Order is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has determined the amount of the penalty it believes is warranted in this matter in the spirit of cooperation and the desire to resolve this matter amicably, without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation.

11. The Department neither admits nor denies Permittee's contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the above violation. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

#### ***PERMITTEE'S CONTENTIONS***

12. The Permittee neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions. The Permittee consents to abide by the terms of this Consent Order and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

#### ***ORDER***

THEREFORE, without admitting that it has violated any statutes or regulations, the Permittee, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the alleged violations cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18), as amended, as well as the need for timely and

effective enforcement; the Department believes that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and the Permittee agree to enter into this Consent Order with the following terms and conditions:

A. That, not later than 45 days after issuance of this order, the Permittee shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the violations cited herein. Said penalty shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified check or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
P.O. Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

All checks shall reference the Permittee's name and address and the ADEM Consent Order number of this action.

B. That immediately, upon the issuance of this Consent Order and continuing each and every day thereafter, the Permittee shall comply with all applicable provisions of ADEM Admin Code div. 335-13, and Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 31-08.

C. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

D. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these provisions and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the violations which are cited in this Consent Order.

E. The Permittee agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

F. For purposes of this Consent Order only, the Permittee agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

G. The parties agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations may be addressed in Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate; the Permittee shall not object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

H. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and the Permittee does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

I. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall not affect the Permittee's obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

J. The parties agree that final approval and entry into this Consent Order are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed Orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the Order.

K. The parties agree that, should any provision of this Consent Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be

inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

L. The parties agree that any modifications of this Consent Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

M. The parties agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Consent Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve the Permittee of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

GENEVA COUNTY COMMISSION

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lance R. LeFleur  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)