

Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Disposal in Alabama

Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

- ◆ A municipal solid waste landfill is a landfill that is permitted to accept household garbage and other types of solid waste.
- ◆ Municipal solid waste landfills operate under Federal “Subtitle D” requirements which were adopted in 1993 and contain many stringent regulatory requirements.
 - Impermeable liner underneath landfill to protect groundwater.
 - Leachate collection system to insure collection, treatment, and proper disposal of leachate.
 - Compaction and cover requirements to insure maximum operating efficiency.
 - Recordkeeping to document the amount of solid waste disposed of.
- ◆ Prior to the adoption of the Subtitle D requirements by ADEM, approximately 300 sanitary landfills operated in Alabama.
- ◆ Alabama currently has 31 municipal solid waste landfills.

Industrial Landfills

- ◆ An industrial landfill is a landfill that is permitted to accept industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. These landfills cannot accept garbage or household waste.
- ◆ Alabama currently has 54 industrial landfills.

Construction and Demolition Landfills

- ◆ A construction and demolition landfill is a landfill that is permitted to accept solid waste associated with construction and demolition activities. These landfills cannot accept garbage, household waste or industrial waste.
- ◆ Alabama currently has 91 construction and demolition landfills.

Landfill Siting in Alabama

- ◆ ADEM does not site landfills in the State of Alabama. Siting of landfills is a local issue and the location of a new landfill must be approved at the local level after involving the public in the siting process.
- ◆ ADEM cannot begin the review of a new permit application for a landfill until the local government has approved the siting of a landfill in that area.
- ◆ In 2003, EPA determined that it found no direct evidence of intentional discrimination in its investigation of ADEM's permitting process for municipal solid waste landfills in Alabama as it relates to the location of landfills. (ref: EPA letter July 1, 2003, regarding Title VI Complaint #28-99-R4)
 - EPA found that ADEM does not choose the location of landfills.
 - EPA found that ADEM does not consider race or any other socio-economic factor relating to the location of landfills.
 - EPA found no evidence indicating a pattern of ADEM permitting landfills primarily in African American communities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Waste Programs Branch at 334-271-7988 for additional information.

ADEM Administrative Code Division 1 (adem.alabama.gov/Regulations/regulations.htm)

ADEM Administrative Code Division 13 (adem.alabama.gov/Regulations/regulations.htm)

*This fact sheet is intended as an overview of solid waste landfills in Alabama. Complete requirements and other information regarding solid waste landfills may be found in ADEM Administrative Code 335-13 available on the ADEM web site at www.adem.alabama.gov.