



## Clinch County Smith Road MSWL September 1, 1998

### Introduction

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) was asked by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), to conduct a health consultation on the MSWL in Homerville, Georgia. The cooperation between EPD and GDPH was initiated through a memorandum of agreement for GDPH to address public health hazards at any Georgia sites where EPD is concerned about environmental contamination releases from a site that they regulate. EPD is concerned about possible adverse health effects caused by past, present and future exposures to environmental contamination from the landfill.

### Site Description and History

The Clinch County MSWL is located approximately 2.3 miles north-northwest of the city of Homerville, Georgia. The landfill is located adjacent to Woodyard Creek on relatively flat land. A number of residences are in the surrounding areas south and southeast of the landfill.

All of the residences in the areas around the landfill use private wells for all water use, including drinking, cooking, bathing, feeding livestock, and irrigating land.

The landfill was opened in 1983 for disposal of municipal solid waste on land which was leased by Clinch County. As part of an agreement with EPD for irrigation and promotion of on-site contaminant volatilization, 17 trenches, each four feet deep by 30 feet wide, were dug, along with a perimeter ditch that extended below the water table. In June of 1990, Clinch County purchased the property on which the landfill is located.

In June 1991, a groundwater monitoring plan was prepared and sent to EPD for approval. The plan called for establishment of 13 downgradient wells and 2 up-gradient wells. The monitoring plan was approved by EPD in February 1992. The wells were installed in May 1992, and sampling began in July 1992. These on-site wells contained very high levels of several volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) when sampled in July 1992.

In January 1994, the landfill was closed, and EPD ordered Clinch County to begin an assessment monitoring program at the landfill.

Over the years, most of the trenches had been filled by topsoil runoff. In the areas where the perimeter ditch was still in place, a great deal of standing water was found. There did not appear to be any on-site activity, but access to the site is unrestricted.

### Environmental Sampling

There have been two rounds of sampling done on the private wells in the area: one by EPD in 1994 and another by Moreland Altobelli Associates in 1998. No evidence was found that the wells had been contaminated by releases from the landfill on either occasion.

### Results

Although very high levels of contamination were recorded in the groundwater samples on site, no data has been recorded to indicate that contaminants have migrated off site. Some off-site groundwater and surface water data taken by EPD showed the presence of low levels of metals, which are believed to be naturally occurring. However, none of the contaminants which were found on the site were present in the off-site groundwater samples taken by EPD.

### Conclusions

This site poses **no public health hazard** because there is no evidence of current or past human exposure to contaminated media, future exposures to contaminated media are not likely to occur, and there is no community-specific health outcome data to indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health.

### Recommendations

- Restrict access to the site due to the chemical hazards which are posed to trespassers.
- Educate residents in the vicinity of the site on the dangers posed to trespassers at the landfill.
- Conduct necessary off-site media evaluation to delineate the direction and extent of plume migration.
- Continue to monitor private wells in the area around the landfill.