

# Landfill must clean up its act

## Order would impose \$20,000 fine for problems

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*FRANKLIN COUNTY* - The Franklin County Landfill has a July deadline to correct several problems, including maintaining weekly landfill cover-up and building a retention pond, or face a \$20,000 fine.

### A quick look

- **The issue:** The Franklin County landfill must resolve several regulatory issues or face a \$20,000 fine
- **What's new:** The public has until April 9 to submit written comments, including a request for a hearing, to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Attn: Wm. Gerald Hardy, Chief of the Land Division, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, AL 36130-1463. Go online to [adem.alabama.gov/PublicNotice/Mar09/3franklin-po.htm](http://adem.alabama.gov/PublicNotice/Mar09/3franklin-po.htm) for more information.
- **What's next:** Landfill employees are working to correct the list of problems before a July deadline.

The fine would be imposed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

ADEM issued a consent order March 11 for the problems at the landfill. Those problems include:

- lack of a system to collect and control run-off storm water;
- failure to control waste permitted to the site;
- failure to apply weekly a minimum of 6 inches of compacted earth;
- failure to confine waste in as small a space as possible;
- failure to control litter within the permitted site;
- failure to close completed portions of the landfill;
- failure to operate in accordance with approved plans and permits; and
- failure to apply for a permit renewal within 180 days before the expiration date.

"The problems are being addressed," said Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore, who is also the county commission chairman. "They have not been corrected."

Solid waste manager Phillip Wilson is on indefinite paid administrative leave; however, Moore said that the two issues were not connected. He declined to give a reason for Wilson's leave.

"It's for personal reasons; it has nothing to do with my job," said Wilson, who has worked at the landfill for 14 years.

Saint Gobain Vetrotex America, known as the old Celotex plant, produces fiberglass panels and dumps rolls of waste fiberglass panels that can be 5 feet high and 5 feet wide. Wilson said that once, a delivery of 900 rolls took the landfill four months to cover with 6 inches of compacted soil, an ADEM regulation.

Wilson said he had talked with Saint Gobain officials about splitting the rolls in half to help machines cover them with dirt every week. Another suggestion was to recycle the excess fiberglass, Wilson said.

"If it weren't for (the fiberglass rolls), we'd be in good shape," said Wilson, who estimated the fiberglass took about 40 percent of the landfill's space.

"The fiberglass materials are not hazardous. Working in collaboration with the disposal site, we have also sent some of this material to another disposal site in another state to reduce demand on the local facility," said Bill Seiberlich, spokesman for Saint Gobain.

Wilson said that since a road runs through the landfill, some people toss trash across the fence, one of the violations listed by ADEM.

County officials will be required to install a retention pond at the landfill to collect storm water that runs through the landfill. Wilson said the landfill has until July to build the pond.

Wilson said he hoped to return next week, and during his personal leave, he was still talking with co-workers trying to organize repairs. The landfill employs 21 workers, Moore said.

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