



Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection

DEP FACT SHEET:

PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS FOR

Commonwealth Environmental Systems Landfill

Major Permit Modification – Southwest Expansion

Application No. 101615-A242

Foster, Frailey, and Reilly Townships, Schuylkill County

Current Permit Information

-Commonwealth Environmental Systems (CES) Landfill is an existing 484.9-acre landfill located at 99 Commonwealth Road, Hegins, PA 17938. The landfill is located in Foster, Reilly, and Frailey Townships. A map showing the footprint of the site is attached.

-Permitted disposal area of approximately 208.53 acres.

-Permitted volume of waste: 29,639,895 Cubic Yards

-Maximum permitted elevation: 1,750 feet above mean sea level

-Its permitted operating hours are from 6:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday and 6:00am to 3:00pm on Saturdays.

-Commonwealth Environmental Systems, L.P. (CES) currently holds a Waste Management Permit with the Department of Environmental Protection that expires January 31, 2027. The permit allows for a maximum average daily waste acceptance rate of 4,750 tons per day and a daily maximum of 5,000 tons.

Proposed Expansion Information

-Requested daily maximum and maximum average remains the same.

-The project involves an approximately 16 acre northern disposal expansion area and an approximately 98 acre southwest disposal expansion area. The expansion will also “piggy-back” onto the existing landfill (i.e., CES will re-grade and place waste on top of the existing landfill area).

-Requested disposal area encompasses approximately 114 acres.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

-Requested total volume of waste would increase by 54,542,544 cubic yards.

-The expansion will increase the peak elevation of the landfill by 170 feet to an elevation of 1,920 feet above mean seal level

-If approved, the expansion does not change the term of the permit and CES would still need to apply for permit renewal prior to the January 31, 2027 expiration date.

-CES also needs to obtain an Air Quality Plan Approval and a Chapter 105 Permit for the expansion.

PERMITTING PROCESS:

Timeline:

-CES filed a permit application with DEP on August 22, 2024 to expand its existing landfill. CES has requested an overlay on existing disposal areas and placement of waste in two new areas to the north and southwest of the existing disposal areas. This will increase the facility's disposal capacity by 54,542,544 cubic yards.

-On Thursday, October 24, 2024, a Local Municipality Involvement Process Meeting was held with DEP and local municipal officials to discuss how CES's expansion application would affect the local community and what oversight local officials would have in the expansion request.

-On Saturday, November 23, 2024, a notice was placed in the PA Bulletin by DEP indicating the 60-day public comment period for the expansion application had begun.

-DEP is currently in the process of reviewing CES's expansion application.

FIRST PHASE:

Environmental Assessment Process (EAP)

The Environmental Assessment Process reviews the environmental impacts of the proposed landfill expansion. The Department's review of the EAP lasts 225 business days and includes a 60-day public comment period.

Timeline:



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

--An initial EAP begins with a review of CES's expansion application by DEP Waste Management staff. DEP also begins accepting public comments on the expansion application.

--DEP then sends a technical review letter to the permit applicant (CES) and CES is given a timeframe in which to provide a response.

--Once the applicant's response is received, a second EAP review is conducted within 75 business days.

-- Additional public comments will be accepted during the DEP's second review.

--Upon completion of DEP's review, if necessary, DEP will send another technical review letter to the applicant with a timeframe in which to provide a response.

--The last step in the Environmental Assessment Process is a final review by DEP and a final decision on whether to accept the Environmental Assessment from CES.

--The first public comment period regarding the EAP will end on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 4pm.

Total: 225 days

SECOND PHASE:

Technical Design and Operational Review:

The Technical Design and Operational Review (TDOR) involves DEP Waste Management Staff reviewing the technical aspects of CES's expansion application such as: liner system, gas management system, leachate system designs, slope stability, site geology, etc. The Department's review time is expected to last 180 business days.

Timeline:

--The first technical design review last 90 business days and again public comments are taken by DEP for 60 days.

-- DEP then sends a technical review letter to CES and CES is given a timeframe in which to provide a response.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

--Once CES's response is received, a second technical design review is held, and a decision is made by DEP staff within 60 business days whether the response to the technical review letter is sufficient to approve the application. If it is not, then a Pre-denial letter would be issued.

--If a pre-denial letter is issued, the applicant (CES) is given another opportunity to respond.

-- A final technical review and decision is done within 30 days of CES's response.

Total (for TDOR): 180 days

THE ENTIRE REVIEW PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO LAST 405 DAYS

-Written comments about the permit expansion application can be sent to: Roger Bellas, Program Manager-Waste Management Program, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 or RA-EPWM-NERO@pa.gov.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

