



Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Information Sheet/Plain Language Summary

COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LANDFILL - PROJECT SUMMARY

Commonwealth Environmental Systems, L.P. (CES) has applied to DEP for a major permit modification at the existing landfill located at 99 Commonwealth Road, Hegins, PA 17938. The facility is planning an expansion involving 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 and would increase the peak elevation of the landfill by 170 feet. The expansion would increase the facilities disposal capacity by approximately 54,542,544 cubic yards. The proposed expansion would increase the life of the landfill by approximately 28 years.

The application does not propose an increase in the current permitted rate of disposal (average and maximum daily volumes of waste).

The application was received on August 22, 2024 and a Local Municipality Involvement Process Meeting [LMIP] meeting was held October 24, 2024. The application was considered administratively complete on November 5, 2024.

All of the required information and application forms from CES have been submitted to DEP. Notice of the application’s administrative completeness was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, November 23, 2024. The permit application for expansion is currently under review by DEP’s Waste Management staff.

What is a “Major Permit Modification?”

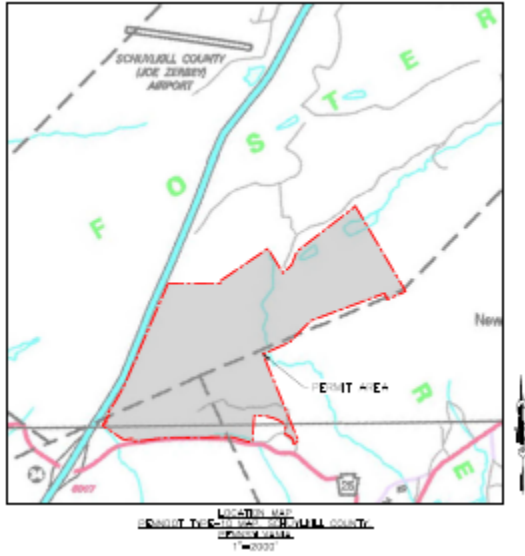
A major permit modification is a request by a facility that holds a permit issued by DEP to alter the conditions of that existing permit. CES’s expansion application is considered a “major permit modification” by DEP because it meets some of the criteria set forth in the PA Code that governs landfills. In its application, CES is requesting: to change the landfill’s site volume (waste capacity).

You can learn more about the permitting process by visiting DEP’s Waste Management webpage:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/waste-programs/solid-waste-programs/municipal-waste-program.html>

Where is this facility?

CES Landfill is located at 99 Commonwealth Road, Hegins, PA 17938. The site is situated in Reilly, Foster, and Frailey Townships. See map:



What will be happening there?

If the expansion application is approved, the facility will be allowed to expand its disposal area by approximately 114 acres and would increase the facility's disposal capacity by 54,542,544 cubic yards. If the permit expansion is denied, CES will continue to operate under the conditions set forth in its existing Waste Management permit with DEP.

DEP Waste Management staff will continually monitor the landfill with regular and unannounced inspections and by reviewing CES's monitoring reports for daily intake (volume of waste) and leachate treatment to ensure the landfill is operating within the guidelines and conditions set forth in its Waste Management Permit and adhering to state regulations that govern landfill operations. DEP will also monitor the landfill to assist in minimizing any nuisances such as: odor and fugitive dust by truck traffic.

How will this affect me?

The landfill operation would continue as it does today. There should be no increase in truck traffic, given the fact that the daily waste acceptance rate is not being increased. There are also no changes proposed to the existing truck access route and entrance to the landfill.

What happens next?

The DEP is currently reviewing the expansion application and taking public comment.

The Department will accept written comments on the expansion application. Written comments on the Waste Management Major Permit Modification application may be sent to the attention of Roger Bellas at the Department's Wilkes-Barre Regional Office, 2 Public Square, Wilkes Barre, PA 18701 or by email at RA-EPWM-NERO@pa.gov.

Where can I review the application?

You can review CES's expansion application on DEP's website:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/about-dep/regional-office-locations/northeast-regional-office/northeast-community-information/ces-landfill.html>

Who should I call if I have questions about this application or the permitting process?

Contact Colleen Connolly at (570)-826-2511 or email: coconnolly@pa.gov or write to the Department at the Wilkes-Barre address/email given above.

What is the time frame for the DEP to make a final decision on this application? See below.

CES Landfill Southwest Expansion Application Review Timeline (PADEP Review and Public Review time run concurrently)

- Administrative Completeness (10 days)

Environmental Assessment Process (EAP)

- 1st EAP Review (120 days)
 - Public/County/Municipality Comments (60 days)
 - Public Meeting, if requested (90 days)
- Applicant response
- 2nd EAP Review (75 days)
 - Public/County/Municipality Comments (45 days)

- Applicant Response (if necessary)
- Final EAP Review and Decision on EAP (30 days)

Subtotal = 225 days

Technical Design & Operation Review

- 1st Technical Review (90 days)
 - Public/County/Municipality Comments (60 days)
- Applicant response
- 2nd Technical Review or Final Decision if appropriate (60 days)
- Applicant Response (if necessary)
- Final Technical Review and Decision (30 days)

Subtotal = 180 days

Total (including admin completeness) = 415 days

*All review times are in business days