

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District

Public Notice

Reply To:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: Regulatory Office 2488 E 81st Street Tulsa, OK 74137 SWT-2023-00412 Public Notice No.

September 30, 2024 Public Notice Date

October 30, 2024 Expiration Date

PURPOSE

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested and to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest.

SECTION 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress through Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharges of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States. These waters include lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, sloughs, wet meadows, natural ponds, and wetlands adjacent to other waters. The intent of the law is to protect these waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical, and biological integrity.

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS

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Application No. SWT-2023-00412

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ODEQ) (30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the District Engineer (DE) has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit and water quality certification pursuant to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The ODEQ hereby incorporates this public notice and procedure as its own public notice and procedure by reference thereto.

- <u>Applicant:</u> Guy Campbell Waste Management of Oklahoma Inc. 2801 South 54th St. West Muskogee, OK 74401
- <u>Agent:</u> Jonathan Queen Weaver Consultants Group, LLC 6420 Southwest Boulevard, Suite 206 Fort Worth, TX 76109

<u>Location</u>: The proposed project is in Section 06, Township 14 North, Range 18 East, near Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma. The project site can be found on the Southwest Muskogee, Oklahoma 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle map at North Latitude 35.720369 and West Longitude -95.442065.

<u>Project Description</u>: The application is for the grading, excavation, and fill into Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) for the construction of a new landfill and stormwater detention system to allow for expansion of existing landfill operations on site.

<u>Purpose</u>: The basic purpose is to construct a 65-acre landfill and adjacent stormwater detention and settling ponds and associated operational roads on a 237-acre property already owned by Waste Management of Oklahoma (WMO).

The overall purpose of this project is to expand existing landfill operations to an adjacent property in order to prolong recycling and disposal activities for the City of Muskogee, Muskogee County, and surround communities. Current facilities have an

expected operational life of 3-4 years. The proposed project would extend operations for another estimated 20 years. There are special aquatic sites (wetlands) on the project site. The project is not a water dependent activity.

Summary Table of Impacts:

Original Proposal									
Number or Location	Impact Activity	Type of Water	Type of Fill Material	Qty of Material cys below OHWM	Footprint (ac and/or lf)				
W-3	Settling Pond Construction	Emergent Wetland	Clean Soil Fill	323 cys	0.10 ac				
W-7	Landfill Liner construction	Pond	Clean Soil Fill	27,814 cys	8.62 ac				
W-8	Landfill Liner Construction	Emergent Wetland	Clean Soil Fill	226 cys	0.07 ac				
W-9	Landfill Liner Construction	Pond	Clean Soil Fill	3,420 cys	1.06 ac				
W-10	Landfill Liner Construction	Forested Wetland	Clean Soil Fill	1,033 cys	0.32 ac				
W-11	Landfill Liner Construction	Emergent Wetland	Clean Soil Fill	97 cys	0.03 ac				
ST-1	Settling Pond Construction	Stream	Clean Soil Fill	2 cys	127 lf				
ST-2	Landfill Liner Construction	Stream	Clean Soil Fill	113 cys	1,358 lf				
ST-3	Landfill Liner Construction	Stream	Clean Soil Fill	40 cys	252 lf				
cubic yards (cys), ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), acre (ac), linear feet (If)									

<u>Description of Work</u>: The applicant proposes to grade, excavate, and fill approximately 0.52 acres of wetlands, 9.68 acres of open water ponds, and 1,737 If of stream channel with approximately 33,000 cys of clean soil fill. The constructed base will be used for the development of the proposed landfill foundation and liner system.

<u>Avoidance and Minimization Information</u>: The applicant provided the following statement with regard to how avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources was incorporated into the project plan:

Waste Management of Oklahoma, Inc. (or the applicant) evaluated several options to avoid impacts to Section 404 Jurisdictional areas located within the 236.3-acre landfill expansion property. A description of the evaluation process and alternatives considered are provided on Figures 3-1 through 3-4. The selected alternative (shown on Figure 3-4) balances the need to provide for the long-term solid waste disposal needs of Muskogee and surrounding communities while minimizing the impacts to potential existing jurisdictional areas located onsite. The selected alternative placed an emphasis on (1) benefitting the community and local industry by providing a much-needed basic service in the form of an environmentally safe, solid waste disposal, (2) compatibility with immediately adjacent land uses, with the expanded landfill being located immediately west of the existing landfill, as well as compatibility with nearby land uses that include agricultural, rangeland, and low to very low density rural residential areas, (3) incorporating perimeter drainage features that will collect, convey, and control stormwater and sediment on the project site while providing water quality improvements prior to off-site discharge of stormwater to downstream receiving waters, (4) utilizing established roadways and traffic patterns sufficient to handle waste management traffic, and (5) the creation of additional jurisdictional waters through a USACE approved mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program such that there will be no net loss of Waters of the US with the proposed project.

<u>Mitigation</u>: Furthermore, the applicant proposes the following as compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources expected from the proposed project:

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of aquatic resources through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program. The applicant proposes to purchase bank credits for 1.71 acres of wetlands and 14037 credits of ephemeral streamline. These amounts are based on the aquatic resource delineation report and the utilization of the Oklahoma Stream Mitigation Method (OSMM).

This mitigation plan is the applicant's proposal. The Corps has made no determination at this time with regard to the adequacy of the proposed mitigation relative to the federal mitigation rules and guidance, including Tulsa District's Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines. Compensatory Mitigation for unavoidable impacts may be required to ensure that this activity requiring a Section 404 permit, if issued, complies with the Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines. The Corps bears the final decision on the need for and extent of mitigation required if the project proposed herein is authorized.

<u>Government Authorizations obtained or received:</u> The applicant is currently seeking a Section 401, Individual Water Quality Certification through Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). A Tier III Permit Modification will also be submitted to ODEQ to modify the existing solid waste operation permit.

<u>Project Setting</u>: The proposed 237-acre project site lies between 2 watersheds, roughly divided from the northwest down to the southeast. The southern portion flows generally to southwest into Pecan Creek and the northern portion flows northeast into upper Coody Creek. Vegetation on site consists of grasslands with mixed riparian forested corridors and scattered emergent and forested wetlands. There are multiple streams present within a couple mile radius of the site. The surrounding land use consists of mostly rangeland with low density rural housing. Directly east of the property contains approximately 183 acres of active and closed landfill operations.

Existing Condition: Currently the proposed property consists of approximately 65 acres of active borrow area for the current active landfill. The remaining property consists of mostly grasslands with riparian corridors along the stream channels and scattered trees in the southern portion and northwest corner. Historic farm terracing is present throughout the undisturbed portions of the project area.

<u>Cultural Resources:</u> The DE is responsible to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (Public Law 89-665), as amended, and other cultural resources laws and Executive Orders. A preliminary review of the state's records has been completed for the presence of sites included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory Database. There are no known historic properties, as defined by the NHPA, in or within the vicinity of the proposed permit area.

<u>Threatened and Endangered Species</u>: The following federally listed species are known to occur in the vicinity or are listed for the county in which the proposed action is located: Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)...... A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies. The IPAC consultation number is 2024-0101137

Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownerships, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be denied if the discharge does not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Subject to the 404(b)(1) Guidelines and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the DE determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

<u>Plans and Data:</u> Plans showing the location of the proposed activity and other data are enclosed with this notice. If additional information is desired, it may be obtained from Josh Mathis, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137; or telephone 918-669-7400.

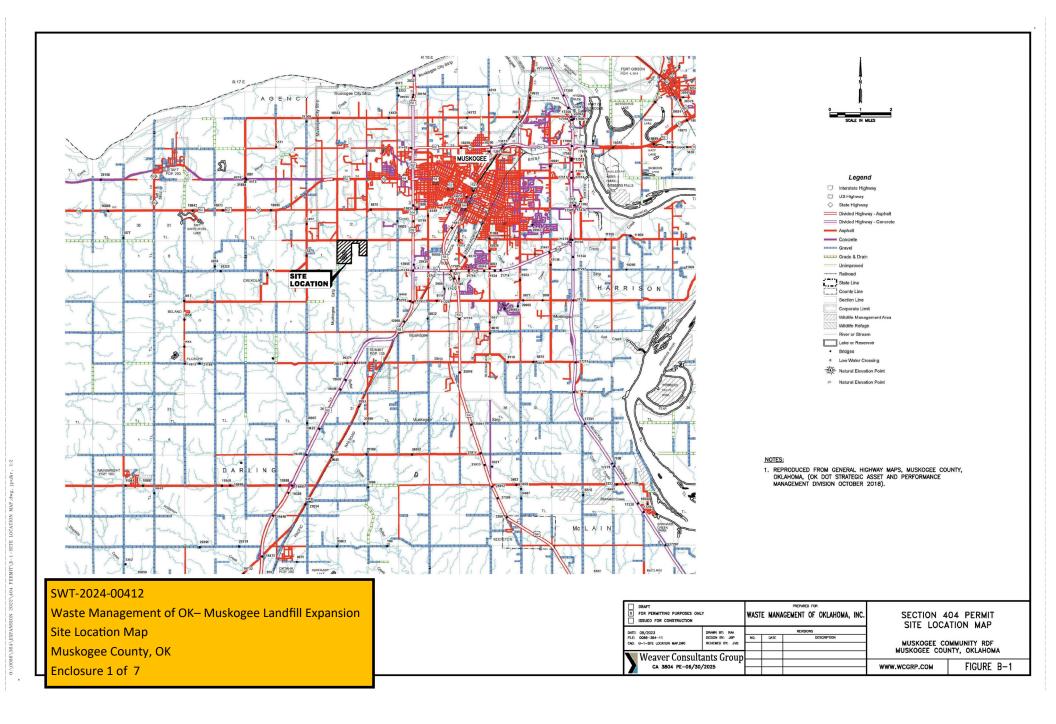
<u>Comments:</u> The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

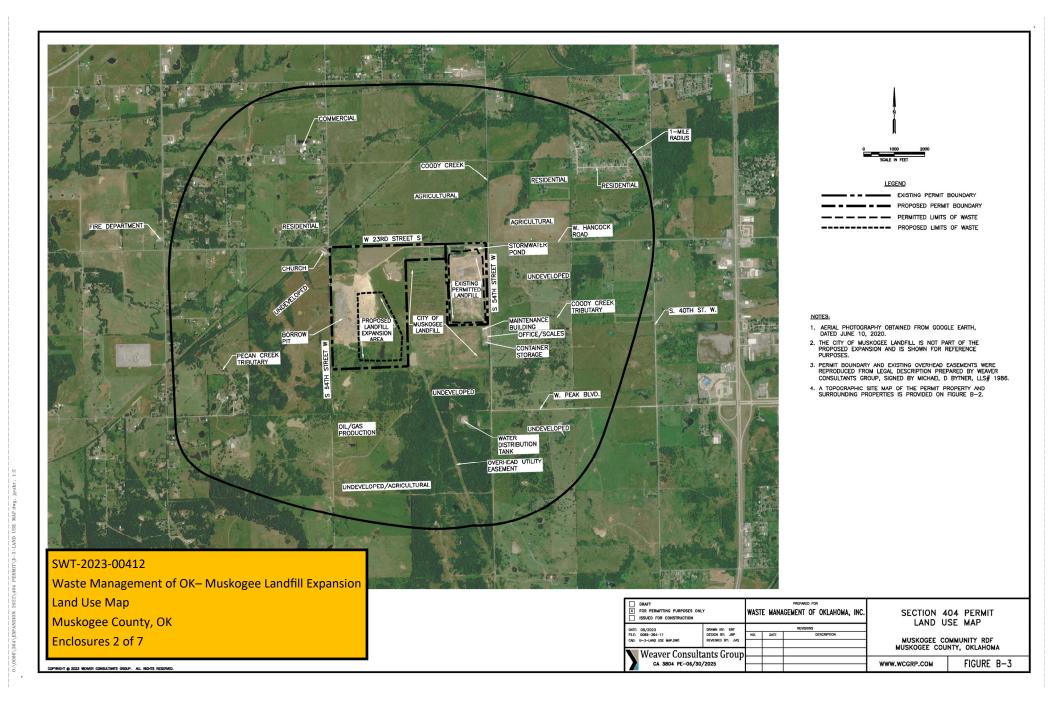
Any comments on this proposal must be submitted to be received by the Corps by the expiration date of this public notice comment period. Comments received after this date will not be considered in our decision. You may submit comments to mailing address Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137 or email CESWT-RO@usace.army.mil. Please include the public notice number SWT-2023-00412 in the subject line of your email message.

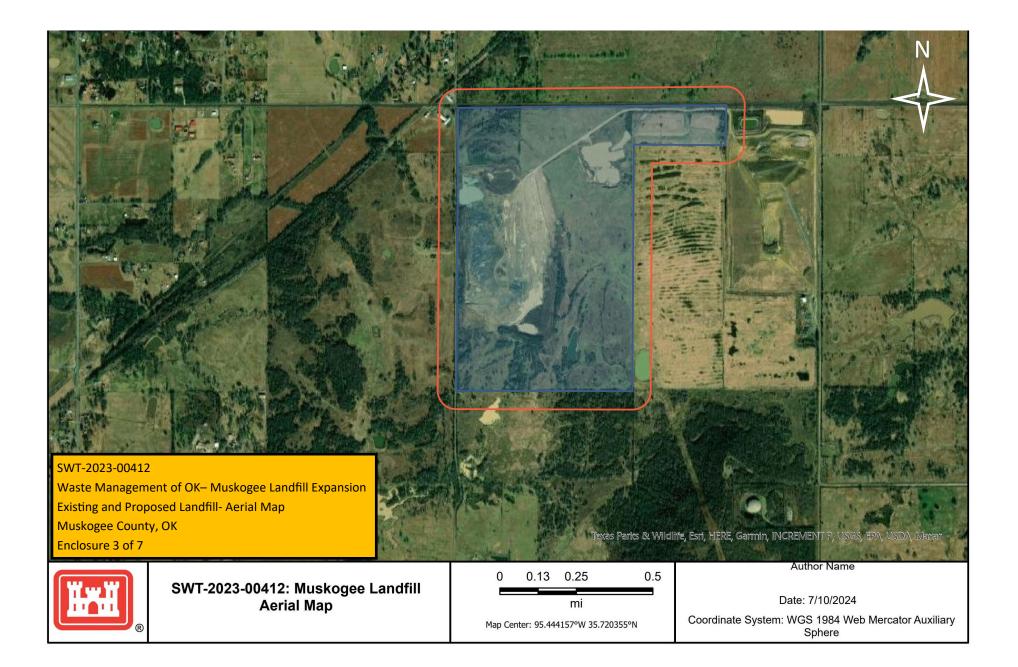
Comments concerning water quality impacts will be forwarded to ODEQ for consideration in issuing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Work may **not** commence until decisions have been made on both Sections 401 and 404.

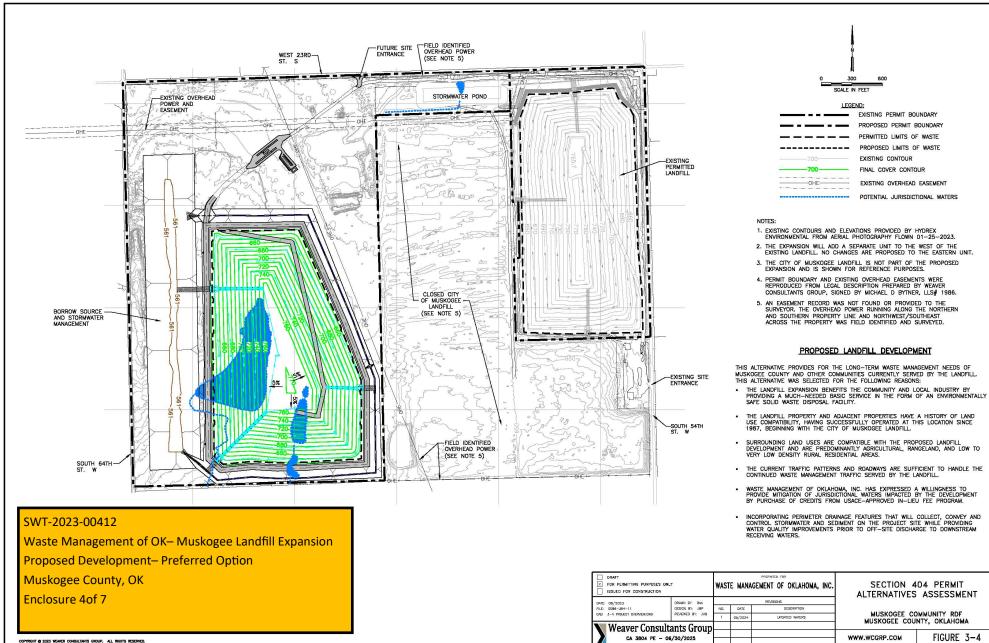
Andrew R. Commer Chief, Regulatory Office

Enclosures

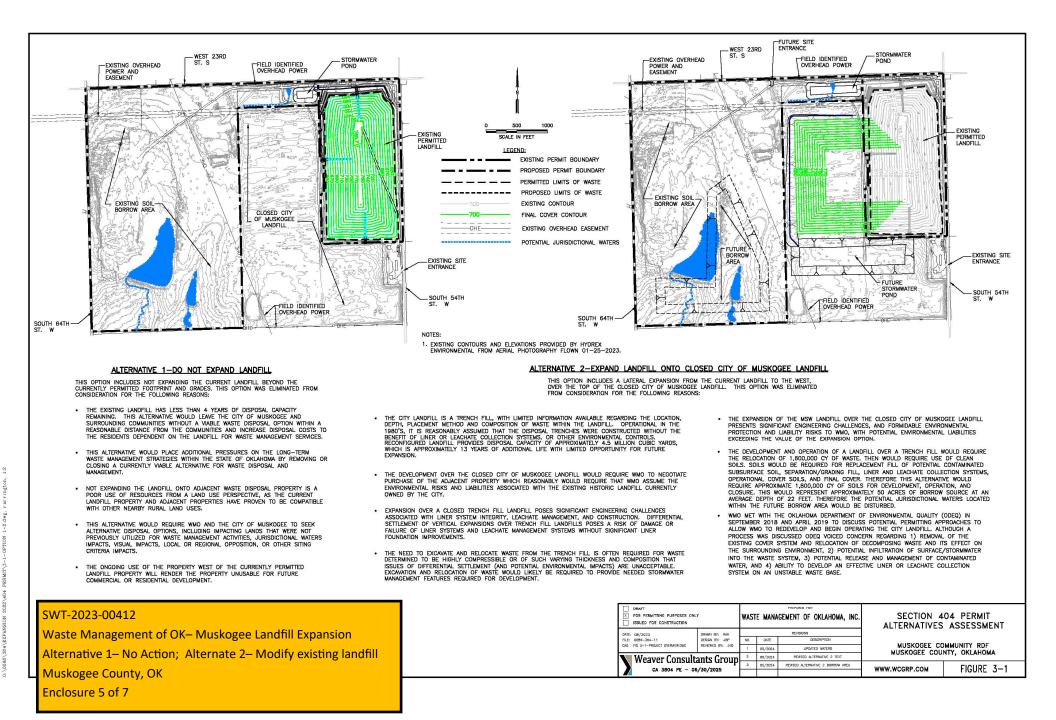


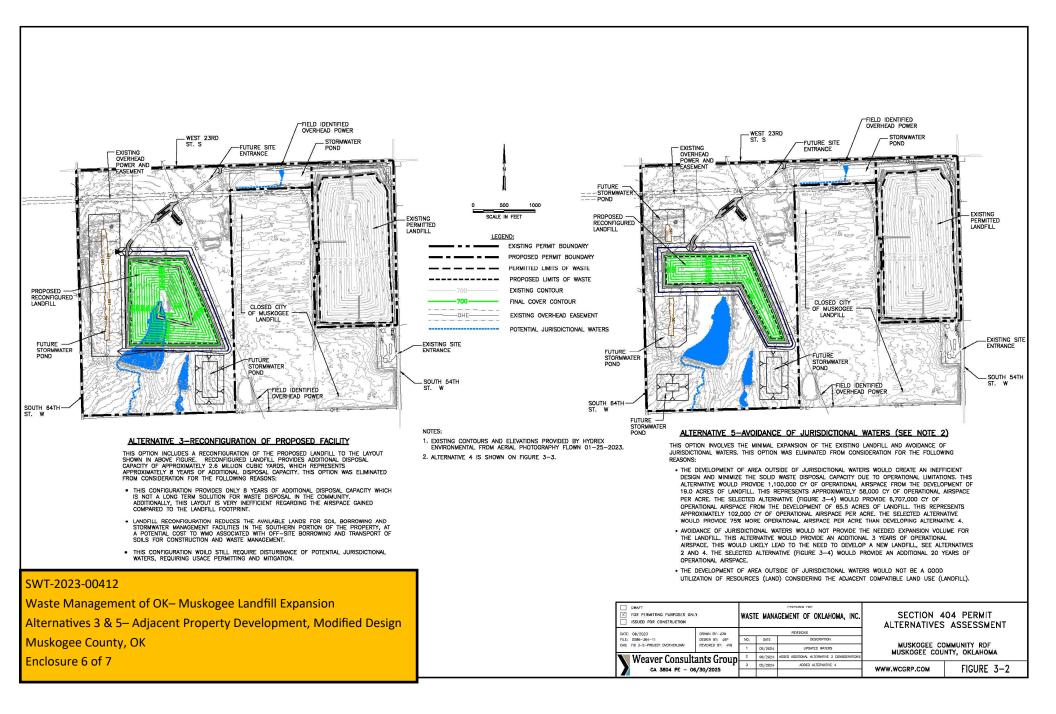


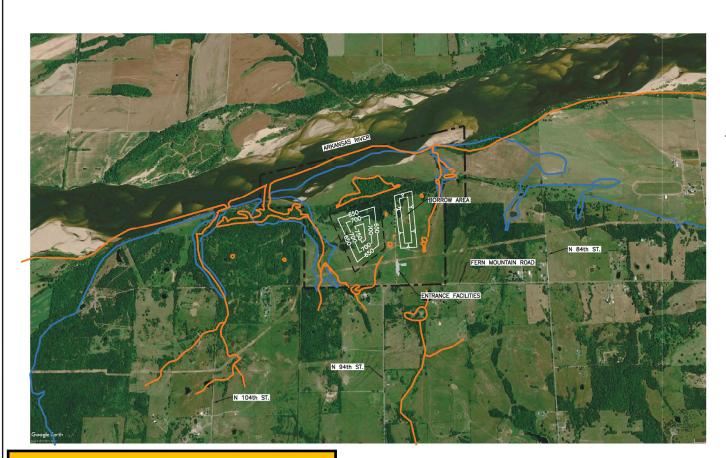




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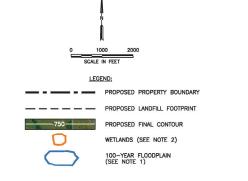
Waste Management of OK– Muskogee Landfill Expansion Alternative 4– Development of Alternate Property Muskogee County, OK Enclosure 7 of 7

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NOTES:

- FLOODPLAIN REPRODUCED FROM FEMA FIRM PANEL NO. 4010100075F AND 40101C0090F FOR MUSKOGEE COUNTY AND INCORPORATED AREAS, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 4, 2011.
- WETLAND INFORMATION REPRODUCED FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY.

	DRAFT				PREPARED FOR				
X	FOR PERMITTING PURPOSES ONLY		WAST	E MANA	GEMENT OF OKLAHOMA, INC.	SECTION 4	04 PERMIT		
	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION					ALTERNATIVES	ASSESSMENT		
DATE:	05/2023	DRAWN BY, 3RP DESIGN BY: JBP REVIEWED BY: JVQ	REVISIONS						
	0086-364-11		ND.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MUSKOGEE COMMUNITY RDF MUSKOGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA			
CAD:	3-3 OPTION 4.DWG								
/	Weaver Consultants Group CA 3804 PE - 06/30/2023					MUSRUGEE COUNTY, URLAHUMA			
						WWW.WCGRP.COM	FIGURE 3-3		



ALTERNATIVE 4-LANDFILL DEVELOPMENT ON A DIFFERENT PROPERTY

THIS OPTION INVOLVES NOT EXPANDING THE EXISTING LANDFILL, BUT INSTEAD PERMITTING A NEW LANDFILL ON A PROPERTY REMOTE TO THE EXISTING LANDFILL PROPERTY. THIS OPTION WAS ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEPARTE PROPERTY WOULD REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF BETWEEN 200 AND 400 ADRES OF PROPERTY (INCLUES ACCESS, ENTRANCE AND STACING FACILITES, AND ADRESO F PROPERTY (INCLUES ACCESS, ENTRANCE AND STACING FACILITES, AND LANDS NOT USABLE DUE TO JURISDICTIONAL WATERS INPACTS OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS). THIS PROPERTY IS 566 ACRES AND FOR SALE FOR \$3.3 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS PROPERTY IS LOGGE ENOUGH TO STE A LANDFILL BUT THE DEVELOPMENT IS LIMITED BY FLOODPLAIN, WETLANDS, AND OTHER LOCATION RESTRICTIONS. THIS PORTINIL LANDFILL COLLD YELD APPROXIMATELY 11 MILLION CUBIC VARDS OF AIRSPACE AND IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 15 MILLS FROM THE MUSKOGEE LANDFILL.
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEPARATE LANDFILL ON THIS TRACT OF LAND COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A GREATER IMPACT ON JURISDICTIONAL WATERS THAN THOSE IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED LANDFILL EXPANSION. AS SHOWN, THE PROPERTY HAS WETLANDS (FORESTED, EMERGENT, AND RIVERINE) ON SITE, AND THESE WETLANDS ARE AT THE DOWNSTREAM END OF THER CONTRIBUTING DRAINAGE BASINS NEXT TO THE ARKARSS RIVER. AS OPPOSED TO THE UPLAND WETLANDS NEAR THE MUSKOGEE LANDFILL THESE WETLANDS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED AND WILL NEED LARGE BUFFRE ZONES TO AVOID IMPACTS.
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SEPARATE TRACT OF LAND WOLLD REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G., OFFICES, SCALEHOUSE, MINITENNCE SHOP, ENTRANCE ROADS AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, UTILITY CONNECTIONS, AND OTHER IMPACTS). THIS ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD CREATE AN ADDITIONAL AND UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN ESTIMATED BETWEEN \$1,300,000 TO \$2,300,000, WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND PERMITTING COSTS.
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEPARATE LANDFILL WOULD NOT BE A REASONABLE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES OR LANDS CONSIDERING THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES (LAND) IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING LANDFILL WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF SUGCESSFUL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL. DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SEPARATE LANDFILL WOULD REQUIRE WWO TO DETAIN A NEW MSW PERMIT FROM THE ODE OF A GREENFELD SITE. THIS WOULD CREATE AN UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN CONSIDERING WMO HOLDS A PERMIT FOR THE CURRENT LANDFILL, AND THE PROPOSED EVAPANDED LANDFILL IS BEING PERMITTED AS A MODIFICATION TO THE EXISTING PERMIT. ADDITIONALLY, WMO IS WILLING TO PROVIDE FOR OFF-SITE MITIGATION.