



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Southwest District  
13051 North Telecom Parkway, Suite 101  
Temple Terrace, FL 33637-0926

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Secretary

November 9, 2022

Ryan Sonnenberg, Solid Waste/Animal Control Director  
Hardee County Solid Waste Department  
685 Airport Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873

Re: Hardee County Regional Landfill – DDMS  
WACS ID No. 40612  
Hardee County

Dear Mr. Sonnenberg:

Department personnel conducted a compliance inspection of the above-referenced facility on October 10, 2022. Based on the information provided during the inspection, the facility was determined to be in compliance. However, areas of concern were noted and requires your review and action. A copy of the inspection report is attached for your records.

The Department appreciates your efforts to maintain this facility in compliance with state and federal rules. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Ryan McMillan at (813) 470-5793, or via e-mail at: [Ryan.D.McMillan@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ryan.D.McMillan@FloridaDEP.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hannah Westervelt".

Hannah Westervelt  
Environmental Manager  
Compliance Assurance Program  
Southwest District  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Enclosures: Inspection Report

cc: Ryan McMillan, FDEP – Southwest District, [Ryan.D.McMillan@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ryan.D.McMillan@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Hannah Westervelt, FDEP – Southwest District, [Hannah.Westervelt@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Hannah.Westervelt@FloridaDEP.gov)  
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Solid Waste Permitting, [swd\\_solid\\_waste\\_permitting@floridadep.gov](mailto:swd_solid_waste_permitting@floridadep.gov)  
Amalia Arista, Hardee County Emergency Management, [Amalia.Arista@hardeecounty.net](mailto:Amalia.Arista@hardeecounty.net)



**Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Inspection Checklist**

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**FACILITY INFORMATION:**

**Facility Name:** HARDEE COUNTY REGIONAL LANDFILL  
**On-site Inspection Start Date:** 10/10/2022  
**On-site Inspection End Date:** 10/10/2022  
**WACS No.:** 40612  
**Facility Street Address:** 685 AIRPORT ROAD  
**City:** WAUCHULA  
**County Name:** HARDEE  
**Zip:** 33873

**INSPECTION PARTICIPANTS:**

(Include ALL Landfill and Department Personnel with Corresponding Titles)

**Principal Inspector:** Ryan D Mcmillan, Inspector

**Other Participants:** Ishama Erinac, Environmental Specialist I; Emily Weaver, Environmental Specialist I; Kathryn Grymes, Environmental Specialist I; Ryan Sonnenberg, Solid Waste/Animal Control Director;

**INSPECTION TYPE:**

Routine Operation Inspection for WPF - Disaster Debris Management Site (DDMS)

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE INSPECTION CHECKLIST:**

This Cover Page to the Inspection Checklist may include any or all of the following attachments as appropriate.

**Note: Checklist items with shaded boxes are for informational purposes only.**

15.0 - SECTION 15.0 - DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SITES

Inspection Date: 10/10/2022

**15.0 - SECTION 15.0 - DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SITES****Requirements:**

The requirements listed in this section provide an opportunity for the Department's inspector to indicate the conditions found at the time of the inspection. A "Not Ok" response to a requirement indicates either a potential violation of the corresponding rule or an area of concern that requires more attention. Both potential violations and areas of concern are discussed further at the end of this inspection report.

| Item No. | Pre-Authorization Inspection   | Ok | Not Ok | Unk | N/A |
|----------|--|----|--------|-----|-----|
| 15.1     | Waste planned for management:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction & Demolition Debris<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yard Trash<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ash<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mixed  |    |        |     |     |
| 15.2     | Is the proposed debris management area located in a water body or wetlands? Section 403.7071(2), F.S.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A  |    |        |     |     |
| 15.3     | Does the site have the proper setbacks? (Check any that are Not OK)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 500 feet from a potable water well (debris other than yard trash & uncontaminated vegetative debris)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 100 feet from a potable water well (yard trash & uncontaminated debris)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 200 feet from a natural or artificial body of water (debris other than yard trash & uncontaminated vegetative debris)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 50 feet from a natural or artificial body of water (yard trash & uncontaminated debris) |    |        |     |     |
| 15.4     | Does the site have adequate access controls?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |    |        |     |     |
| 15.5     | Are the site description and plans for operation in accordance with the Disaster Debris Management Site guidance?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A  |    |        |     |     |
| Item No. | Operation Inspection   | Ok | Not Ok | Unk | N/A |
| 15.6     | Waste managed:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Construction & Demolition Debris<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yard Trash<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ash<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mixed  |    |        |     |     |
| 5.7      | Is debris or other solid waste being stored, processed, or disposed of in wetlands or other surface waters? Section 403.7071(2), F.S.  |    | ✓      |     |     |
| 15.8     | Does the site have adequate stormwater controls?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |    |        |     |     |
| 15.9     | Does the site have a method to control the offsite migration of dust, wood chips, or ash?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No  |    |        |     |     |

Inspection Date: 10/10/2022

| Item No. | Operation Inspection   | Ok | Not Ok | Unk | N/A |
|----------|--|----|--------|-----|-----|
|          | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |    |        |     |     |
| 15.10    | Does the site have adequate access controls?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |    |        |     |     |
| 15.11    | Does the site have adequate spotters?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A  |    |        |     |     |
| 15.12    | Is unauthorized or putrescible waste segregated and removed from the site as soon as practicable?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A  |    |        |     |     |
| 15.13    | Is the burning of vegetative debris, yard trash, or untreated wood from C&D debris in accordance with Section 403.7071(6), F.S.?   |    |        |     | ✓   |
| 15.14    | Is the site operating in accordance with the plans for operation?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A  |    |        |     |     |
| Item No. | Closure Inspection   | Ok | Not Ok | Unk | N/A |
| 15.15    | Has all disaster debris been removed from the site? Section 403.7071(2), F.S.  |    |        |     | ✓   |
| 15.16    | Was only clean wood and/or vegetative material used to produce mulch beneficially used or left on-site?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A   |    |        |     |     |
| 15.17    | Is there any observed evidence of spills or leaks requiring the site to perform environmental sampling in accordance with the Disaster Debris Management Site guidance?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A |    |        |     |     |

Inspection Date: 10/10/2022

**Current Areas of Concern:**

Rule: 403.7071(2)

Question Number: 5.7

Explanation: At the time of inspection, Department staff observed yard trash material being stored in a depressional area by the scale house that had standing water and was dominated by obligate species.

Inspector Ryan McMillan spoke with facility contact (Ryan Sonnenberg) about working towards removing material in the wetlands to the upland area, taking into consideration all appropriate buffer zones.

Corrective Action: Please ensure all new material is placed in the upland portion of the staging area and remove any material remaining in the wetlands.

**Attachments:**

Material in Wetlands



Material in Standing Water



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**COMMENTS:**

On 10/10/2022, Department staff (Ryan McMillan, Ishama Erinac, Emily Weaver, Kathryn Grymes) arrived on site to conduct an initial inspection. Upon arrival, Department staff met with facility contact, Mr. Ryan Sonnenberg. During inspection, inspector Ryan McMillan discussed plan of operations for the activated DDMS. Mr. Sonnenberg indicated at the time of the visit that yard trash is currently the only material being accepted, however C&D will start being accepted on 10/12/2022, which will be routed directly to the active C&D landfill area, and will not be staged in the DDMS area. Appropriate spotting was observed at the time of inspection.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Inspection Date: 10/10/2022

Site Exit



Yard Trash Pile



Spotting Tower



Yard Trash Pile





Inspection Date: 10/10/2022

**Signed:**

Ryan D Mcmillan

Inspector

**PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR NAME****PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR TITLE**

DEP

11/09/2022

**PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR SIGNATURE****ORGANIZATION****DATE**

Ishama Erinac

Environmental Specialist I

**INSPECTOR NAME****INSPECTOR TITLE**

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

FDEP

**INSPECTOR SIGNATURE****ORGANIZATION**

Emily Weaver

Environmental Specialist I

**INSPECTOR NAME****INSPECTOR TITLE**

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

FDEP

**INSPECTOR SIGNATURE****ORGANIZATION**

Kathryn Grymes

Environmental Specialist I

**INSPECTOR NAME****INSPECTOR TITLE**

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

FDEP

**INSPECTOR SIGNATURE****ORGANIZATION**

Ryan Sonnenberg

Solid Waste/Animal Control Director

**REPRESENTATIVE NAME****REPRESENTATIVE TITLE**Hardee County Solid Waste  
Department

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

**REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE****ORGANIZATION**

NOTE: By signing this document, the Site Representative only acknowledges receipt of this Inspection Report and is not admitting to the accuracy of any of the items identified by the Department as "Not Ok" or areas of concern.

**Report Approvers:****Approver:** Hannah Westervelt**Inspection Approval Date:** 11/09/2022