

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Poplar View Class III Landfill
Vertical Expansion
DML470000057
1730 McMillan Station Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37924
September 19, 2025

Prepared by the Division of Solid Waste
Management



Preface

This document contains the comments received during the public comment period, both written and oral, for the proposed major modification of the Poplar View Class III Disposal Facility and the response to comments from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM). Comments received orally were shortened to remove content not relevant to the permit application. It should be noted that DSWM is only required to address and respond to technical and regulatory specific comments. Comments made in either support or opposition to the permit modification will have no significant impact on the final decision unless they also present relevant factual information to substantiate their position, Rule 0400-11-01-.02(4)(j)1(ii).

When a permit application meets all the requirements/standards of Rule Chapter 0400-11-01, Solid Waste Processing and Disposal (referred hereafter as the Regulations), the DSWM is required to issue the permit. Therefore, when a concern is addressed by a requirement of the Regulations, then the regulatory rule citation is provided along with a summary of how the Meridian Waste application addressed the requirement. Further, the response will note the location in the application where this information may be found. When a concern is not addressed by a requirement of the DSWM Regulations but is addressed by other TDEC Division Regulations or Permit, then information is provided concerning the other TDEC Division Regulations or Permit. After careful consideration/evaluation of all comments received, the DSWM is issuing the permit because the Meridian Waste permit application has been found to meet all requirements and standards of the TDEC's Division Regulations.

Comment 1:

When I moved into my house, I had a beautiful view of the Appalachian Mountains and a section of the Appalachian Trail. I'm concerned about the likelihood of the vertical expansion blocking that view. Furthermore, I'm concerned about the construction of the vertical expansion, as my home is already covered in several layers of dust from work done around the landfill. Additionally, as a long-time neighbor of the Poplar View Landfill, I have witnessed a concerning number of fires break out at the landfill. Will permitting the vertical expansion increase the likelihood of these fires occurring?

Response 1:

The comments associated with view is considered a general non-technical statement against the landfill expansion. TDEC has no formal response to this comment. Rule 0400-11-01-.02(4)(j) states that the operator must take dust control measures as necessary to prevent dust from creating a nuisance or safety hazard to adjacent

landowners. The approved facility operations manual states that dust will be controlled by using water trucks and by adding additional stone materials in problem areas. Additionally, Rule 0400-11-01-.02(4)(c) states that the facility must have, on-site and continuously available, properly maintained fire suppression equipment in sufficient quantities to control accidental surface fires that may occur, or arrangements must be made with the local fire protection agency to provide immediate firefighting services when needed. Additional earth moving equipment shall be brought to the facility as necessary to help suppress an underground fire. The additional capacity should have no bearing on the risk of fires.

Comment 2:

I strongly oppose the recent proposal to modify the Poplar View Landfill due to serious environmental and community concerns:

- First, there is a history of waste disposal mismanagement dating back to 2010, with an increase in leachate (runoff).
- This proposal will increase runoff by an estimated 50% taking our waterways.
- Furthermore, the addition of numerous new homes and buildings in the area has already caused substantial increases in runoff, and this proposal will add an additional burden to our community.
- The landfill is located one mile from a preschool and within close proximity to many local farms.
- Furthermore, there is already another landfill, Meridian Waste-Riverside C&D Landfill, on the same side of town.

In conclusion, East Knoxville is unfairly burdened with all the landfills for our county despite the fact that more waste is produced in the more densely populated areas of West Knoxville; put an additional landfill in some other parts of our city.

Response 2:

TDEC is unable to point to any reason this vertical expansion will increase leachate generation, or stormwater runoff amounts as the surface area of the landfill during operation and closure remains effectively unchanged. The comments related to the landfills proximity to homes and establishments are viewed as a general non-technical statement against the landfill expansion. TDEC has no formal response to this comment. TDEC has found this proposal to meet all residential buffer standards or has expressed written permission to operate with the buffer from the affected property owners. Tennessee solid waste regulations do not provide for a demonstration of need to approve or deny a permit modification.