

From: [Larsen, Robert](#)
To: [Bracey, Wiley C CIV USARMY CESAC \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Paris, Antoni Z CIV \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Horry County Solid Waste Authority Landfill Expansion PN - SAC-2025-00032
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning Mr. Bracey,

The SHPO has received the Horry County Solid Waste Authority Landfill Expansion PN – SAC-2025-00032, located in Conway, Horry County, South Carolina.

The Corps has stated: *“The applicant is requesting a 15-year Department of the Army permit to construct three (3) new landfill cells (C&D Site 1, C&D Site 2, and MSW Site 1) to provide a total capacity of 23.4 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition waste (C&D). The applicant has also requested to amend the existing Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (SAC-2004-05388, Deed Book 4328, Page 2984), that was recorded for the onsite wetlands, to allow authorization for the construction of two (C&D Site 1 and C&D Site 2) of the three (3) proposed landfill cells. The onsite wetlands in the location of MSW Site 1 are not preserved under restrictive covenants. C&D Site 1 will require the placement of 30.7 acres of fill material in freshwater wetlands and 4.85 acres of fill material in upland buffers, all of which are protected under restrictive covenants. The landfill cell at this site will have a capacity of 4.1 million tons of C&D waste. C&D Site 2 will require the placement of 45.9 acres of fill material in freshwater wetlands and 23.32 acres of fill material in upland buffers, all of which are protected under restrictive covenants. The landfill cell at this site will have a capacity of 8.4 million tons of C&D waste. MSW Site 1 will require the placement of 25.8 acres of fill material in freshwater wetlands, NONE of which are protected under restrictive covenants. The landfill cell will have a capacity of 11.2 million tons of MSW. Total wetland impacts: 102.4 acres*

The C&D landfill cells will be constructed by first removing all trees, vegetation, and organic soils within the footprint of proposed cell. The bottom elevation of the landfill will be at least two feet above the seasonal high-water table as it exists prior to construction of the landfill cell. Structural backfill will be placed as required to provide adequate separation between the landfill base grades and seasonal high-water table. C&D waste will then be placed in the landfill and covered as required until final waste grades are achieved. Upon final waste grades being reached, the final closure system will be installed consisting of a minimum 2-foot-thick soil layer. The C&D landfill cells will be designed to produce no leachate. Groundwater will be sampled annually to determine if any contamination occurs. MSW Site 1 will be constructed by first removing all trees, vegetation, and organic soils within the footprint of the proposed cell. The bottom elevation of the landfill will be at least three feet above the seasonal high-water table as it exists prior to construction of the landfill cell. Structural backfill will be placed as required to provide adequate separation between the landfill base grades and seasonal high-water table. A composite liner system will be used, consisting of a compacted soil liner at least two feet thick with a flexible membrane liner (FML) placed directly on top of the compacted soil liner. A leachate collection system will be installed on top of the liner system, consisting of a network of perforated pipes embedded in an approximately two-feet thick layer of protective cover soil and/or aggregate. These pipes will lead to a sump system where leachate is collected and pumped to a storage facility and ultimately discharged to a treatment facility. MSW waste will then

be placed on top of the liner and leachate collection system and covered as required until final waste grades are achieved. Upon final waste grades being reached, the final closure system will be installed consisting of a minimum 18-inch thick compacted low-permeability soil layer, FML, and minimum 1-ft thick layer of earthen material capable of sustaining native plant growth.”

Our agency notes the current APE has not been previously surveyed for archaeological sites or other associated cultural resources. However, a review of SC ArchSite indicates 35 previously identified archaeological sites within a half-mile radius of the Corps’ APE, including multiple archaeological site directly within the Corps’ APE; this includes potentially eligible Archaeological Sites, evidenced by 38HR0387, which our agency currently holds a covenant over in perpetuity. Additionally, project tract is located within a 0.5 mile radius of multiple Carolina Bays, as seen south of International Drive. Previous archaeological investigations have demonstrated Carolina Bays have a high probability to contain significant, intact pre-contact archaeological sites within South Carolina. Our office also notes, multiple geomorphological characteristics which would indicate a high probability for archaeological resources, including permanent water sources in Sterrit Swamp, including its East and South Prongs, and Mill Creek.

Based on the Corps’ description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and the identification of multiple archaeological sites within immediate proximity to, or directly within the APE, including multiple geomorphological characteristics which would indicate a medium to high probability for archaeological resources to be present within the APE, our agency respectfully asks for the Corps’ to initiate Section 106 consultation with our agency concerning this undertaking, as it is unclear to our agency where ground disturbing activities will occur in relation to the aforementioned archaeological sites or if these areas have been sufficiently surveyed; based upon the information provided our agency cannot currently concur with a no historic properties affected determination.

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If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include, but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal and glass objects, and human skeletal materials. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately.

Please refer to SHPO Project Number 25-RL0440 in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Larsen III, MSc., RPA
Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
SC Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223
803.896.6181

<https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/resources/archaeology>

