From: Elijah Vandergriff <Elijah.Vandergriff@WasteConnections.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:28:42 PM
To: Arnold, Bradley <Bradley.Arnold@sumtercountyfl.gov>
Cc: Mike Eastburn <meastburn@cityofbushnellfl.com>; Morgan Wilson <mwilson@cityofbushnellfl.com>
Subject: 09.2026 FDEP Response Letter

Good afternoon Mr. Arnold,

I know the Board continues to receive questions from members of the community regarding the Heart of Florida Landfill operations, including the recent warning letter issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Attached is the follow-up letter from the agency that addresses and resolves those concers. The correspondence also reflects our ongoing commitment to meeting and exceeding the high operational and evnironmental stadards expected of our facility.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is any additional information I can provide.

Respectfully,
Elijah Vandergriff

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Central District Office
3319 Maguire Blvd. Suite 232
Orlando, FL 32803

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jay Collins
Lt. Governor

Alexis A. Lambert
Secretary

September 2, 2026

Elijah Vandergriff, Sr. District Manager
Waste Connections, Inc.
835 County Road 529
Lake Panasoffkee, Florida 33528
Elijah.Vandergriff@WasteConnections.com

Re: Response to July 23, 2026 Letter
ACMS Class I Landfill
SW Facility ID #85764
UIC Facility ID #108384
Sumter County

Dear Mr. Vandergriff:

Thank you for your submittal on July 23, 2026 as follow up to the meeting held on July 16, 2026.

Information provided regarding your staffing levels, submittal of operator and spotter certificates, and comments addressing the leachate concerns adequately demonstrates those violations did not occur.

For clarification of deliverables:

- The Contamination Evaluation Plan (CEP) submitted in May 2026 was a condition of a previous Consent Order (25-1884), and is separate from the recent notification of the need to commence Evaluation Monitoring as outlined in Chapter 62-701.510(6) F.A.C. During the meeting on July 16, 2026, it was discussed that all groundwater monitoring would be moved to the standard process via Evaluation Monitoring.
    - Please proceed with all steps outlined in Chapter 62-701.510(6) F.A.C. Based on the July 1, 2026 notice to begin Evaluation Monitoring, the Department expects the Evaluation Monitoring initial sampling to occur by September 29, 2026, and an updated Contamination Evaluation Plan based on that sampling to be submitted by December 28, 2026.
- Regarding the Operating Plan, during the meeting, the Department provided comments on the missing information in the December submittal. Please submit an updated

Operating Plan to include the additional scale locations and second entrance site for intermodal transport for review by October 14, 2026.

Please address your response and any questions to Austin Morss of the Central District Office via e-mail at Austin.Morss@FloridaDEP.gov, and to Mary St. John via email at Mary.St.John@FloridaDEP.gov. We look forward to your cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,



Aaron Watkins, District Director
Central District
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

cc: Austin Morss, Mary St. John, Nathan Hess, FDEP

July 23rd, 2026

Aaron Watkins, Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Central District Office
3319 Maguire Blvd., Suite 232
Orlando, FL 32803

Re: **Response to July 1, 2026, FDEP Warning Letter**
A.C.M.S. Inc.
Heart of Florida Landfill – SW Facility ID #85764; UIC Facility ID #108384; WACS ID #85764

Dear Mr. Watkins,

This letter is being submitted in response to the Warning Letter, dated July 1, 2026 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Central District (Department). The letter noted five items, the Department's comments are bold/underline, and our responses follow in italics for each of the five identified items.

The facility transfers intermodal containers from rail car to truck before weighing the waste. The waste is then applied to the working face via bottom opening in intermodal containers while the truck drives over the working face. Waste is not deposited at the tipping line. This operational change does not appear to be reflected in the currently approved facility operating documentation.

Heart of Florida does not object to submitting additional updates to its Site Operating Plan for Department review and approval. As you know, an Operating Plan revision was submitted on December 19, 2025, as part of the five-year permit review process, and the facility is currently awaiting Department comments. If additional revisions are requested, Heart of Florida will promptly address them. We have attached our email exchange with Mr. Morss to this letter for reference.

Confirmation resampling due to anomalous elevated concentrations in the February 2026 semi-annual monitoring event were due within 30 days of receipt of lab results by the facility. Based on Chapter 62-701.510(6) the facility shall implement Evaluation Monitoring within 90 days of this notification.

Heart of Florida acknowledges that the above-referenced Florida Administrative Code and our approved permit requires resampling in certain circumstances, and the February semi-annual monitoring event was performed in full compliance with these requirements. In fact, the lab results were received on March 9, 2026, and the resampling event was performed on March 25, 2026, sixteen days later. We await a response from the Department to the Contamination Evaluation Plan (CEP), submitted by the facility on May 21, 2026.

The facility appears to be operating with staffing levels that may be insufficient to adequately inspect and manage incoming waste streams at the active working face. Based on observations, it appears that the current staffing configuration may not be consistent with the approved operating plan requirements to ensure all incoming waste is properly inspected for unauthorized materials.

We believe that there may be a misunderstanding of the operating procedures and our staffing levels at Heart of Florida. Heart of Florida has a total number of approximately 57 employees. Several of our heavy equipment operators are certified waste operators, which also certifies them as spotters. Attached are the training certificates for our certified landfill operators. On the date of inspection, 18 certified landfill operators were on duty, several of whom were actively performing waste screening and spotting functions consistent with their training and certifications. These operating procedures and staffing levels are in compliance with the Department-approved Operating Plan.

During the inspection at a shared facility location conducted on 3/25/2026. Potential leachate was observed within the stormwater system. This observation was re-assessed on 5/12/26, along with signs of leachate release from the leachate system air valve, it appears the leachate collection system is not maintained, and leachate releases may be occurring on site.

We understand that Department staff did not sample the stormwater system during its recent inspections and based their assumption on the color of the stormwater. Please note that observation is consistent with stormwater runoff containing suspended sediment following a recent 1.4-inch rainfall event. Leachate is much darker (near black in color), has a distinct odor, and is accompanied with post rain event seeping and discoloration of soil near the point of origin, none of these indicators were present during the inspection which leads Heart of Florida to believe the liquid present in the inspection photos is not indicative of leachate in the stormwater system.

Regarding the operation of our leachate collection system, the air release valve is designed to remove air from the leachate force main. Following a routine inspection, Heart of Florida staff performed a maintenance action on the subject air release valve just prior to the Department's inspection. During the maintenance action, a small amount of leachate was released and stained the immediate area. The leachate was contained entirely within the lined landfill and was not associated with a leak or other form of discharge. In fact, the facility provided photo documentation to the Department following the maintenance action indicating that this was not a failure of the leachate system. The noted area was remediated on May 12, 2026 and was discussed in email correspondence dated May 18, 2026 to Mr.

Austin Morss of the Department.

The seven-day notice required by UIC Permit Number 0450206-001 for the pressure test conducted on June 14, 2026 was not provided to the Department.

Heart of Florida acknowledges that the advance notification was not initially provided. Upon discovery, the facility nullified the intended report, provided the required seven-day notice and rescheduled the test. The pressure test was successfully completed on June 24, 2026, with Department representatives present.

In closing, we believe the items contained in the Department's Warning Letter have been appropriately addressed during the facility's regular interactions with Department staff as a matter of complying with its permit. Heart of Florida has consistently acted promptly and proactively to meet its regulatory obligations, and several of the items identified in the Warning Letter do not accurately reflect conditions at the facility. Heart of Florida is committed to environmental stewardship and will continue to work alongside the Department to further our mutual objectives.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information or would like to schedule a follow-up site visit.

Sincerely,

Elijah Vandergriff

Elijah Vandergriff
Senior District Manager
A.C.M.S., Inc., d/b/a Heart of Florida Landfill

From: Elijah Vandergriff
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 3:37 PM
To: Arnold, Bradley
Cc: Mike Eastburn ; Morgan Wilson ; Don Grigg
Subject: FW: WACS ID No 85764 - ACMS Heart of Florida Class I Landfill - Well Installation and Sampling Notification

Good afternoon Mr. Arnold,

Please see the correspondence below regarding the installation of additional monitoring wells in accordance with Evaluation Monitoring between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Heart of Florida Landfill.

At Heart of Florida, we look forward to the installation of these additional monitoring points as we continue to advance our commitment to operational excellence and environmental stewardship.

The email exchange below, along with the listed attachments, can also be found in FDEP's Oculus.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,
Elijah

From: Hess, Nathan <Nathan.Hess@FloridaDEP.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 3:02 PM
To: Daniel Montiel <DMontiel@Geosyntec.com>; Watkins, Aaron <Aaron.Watkins@FloridaDEP.gov>
Cc: Matt Wissler <MWissler@Geosyntec.com>; Don Grigg <Don.Grigg@WasteConnections.com>; Lacy Ballard <Lacy.Ballard@wasteconnections.com>; John Perkey <John.Perkey@WasteConnections.com>; Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>; Matt Arcarola <Matthew.Arcarola@WasteConnections.com>; Reagan King <Reagan.King@WasteConnections.com>; Nikki Crews <Nikki.Crews@WasteConnections.com>; Elijah Vandergriff <Elijah.Vandergriff@WasteConnections.com>; ralph.DeMeo <ralph.DeMeo@arlaw.com>; Jeff.Littlejohn@arlaw.com; Morss, Austin <Austin.Morss@FloridaDEP.gov>; St. John, Mary <Mary.St.John@FloridaDEP.gov>
Subject: RE: WACS ID No 85764 - ACMS Heart of Florida Class I Landfill - Well Installation and Sampling Notification

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the submittal and notification.

I hope all have a great weekend!

-Nathan

From: Daniel Montiel <DMontiel@Geosyntec.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 12:11 PM
To: Watkins, Aaron <Aaron.Watkins@FloridaDEP.gov>; DEP_CD <DEP_CD@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Matt Wissler <MWissler@Geosyntec.com>; Don Grigg <don.grigg@wasteconnections.com>; Lacy Ballard <lacy.ballard@wasteconnections.com>; John Perkey <john.perkey@wasteconnections.com>; Sarah Phillips Reagan.King@WasteConnections.com; Nikki Crews <nikki.crews@wasteconnections.com>; Elijah Vandergriff <elijah.vandergriff@wasteconnections.com>; ralph.DeMeo <ralph.DeMeo@arlaw.com>; Jeff.Littlejohn@arlaw.com;

<sarah.phillips@wasteconnections.com>; Matthew.Arcarola@WasteConnections.com;

Morss, Austin <Austin.Morss@FloridaDEP.gov>; St. John, Mary <Mary.St.John@FloridaDEP.gov>; Hess, Nathan <Nathan.Hess@FloridaDEP.gov>
Subject: WACS ID No 85764 - ACMS Heart of Florida Class I Landfill - Well Installation and Sampling Notification

Hello Aaron,

This email serves as notice for the installation and sampling of proposed Compliance Wells (CW-4, CW-5, CW-6, CW-7, CW-8, CW-11, CW-12) associated with Evaluation Monitoring requested by FDEP on 7/1/2026). This email also serves as notice for the installation and sampling of Detection Well MW-14.

Well Construction Details:
Construction details for the proposed wells are attached and are based upon wells currently installed per the MPIS. The locations of the proposed compliance wells are summarized in the attached figures. Rationale for the well placement is provided below:

- CW-4, CW-5, CW-6 and CW-7: Locations shifted to the north to avoid placement of the well within the stormwater ditch and north of the high traffic area. The area between the stormwater ditch and the high traffic area is also not accessible due to a steep grade as noted in photos and figures.
- CW-8: Location shifted to the east to avoid stormwater management areas and high traffic area as noted in attached photos and figures.
- CW-11 and CW-12: Locations shifted to the west beyond the stormwater management areas as noted in attached photos and figures.

Schedule:
The monitoring wells will be installed between 9/16 and 9/18. Groundwater sampling will be completed between 9/21 and 9/25.

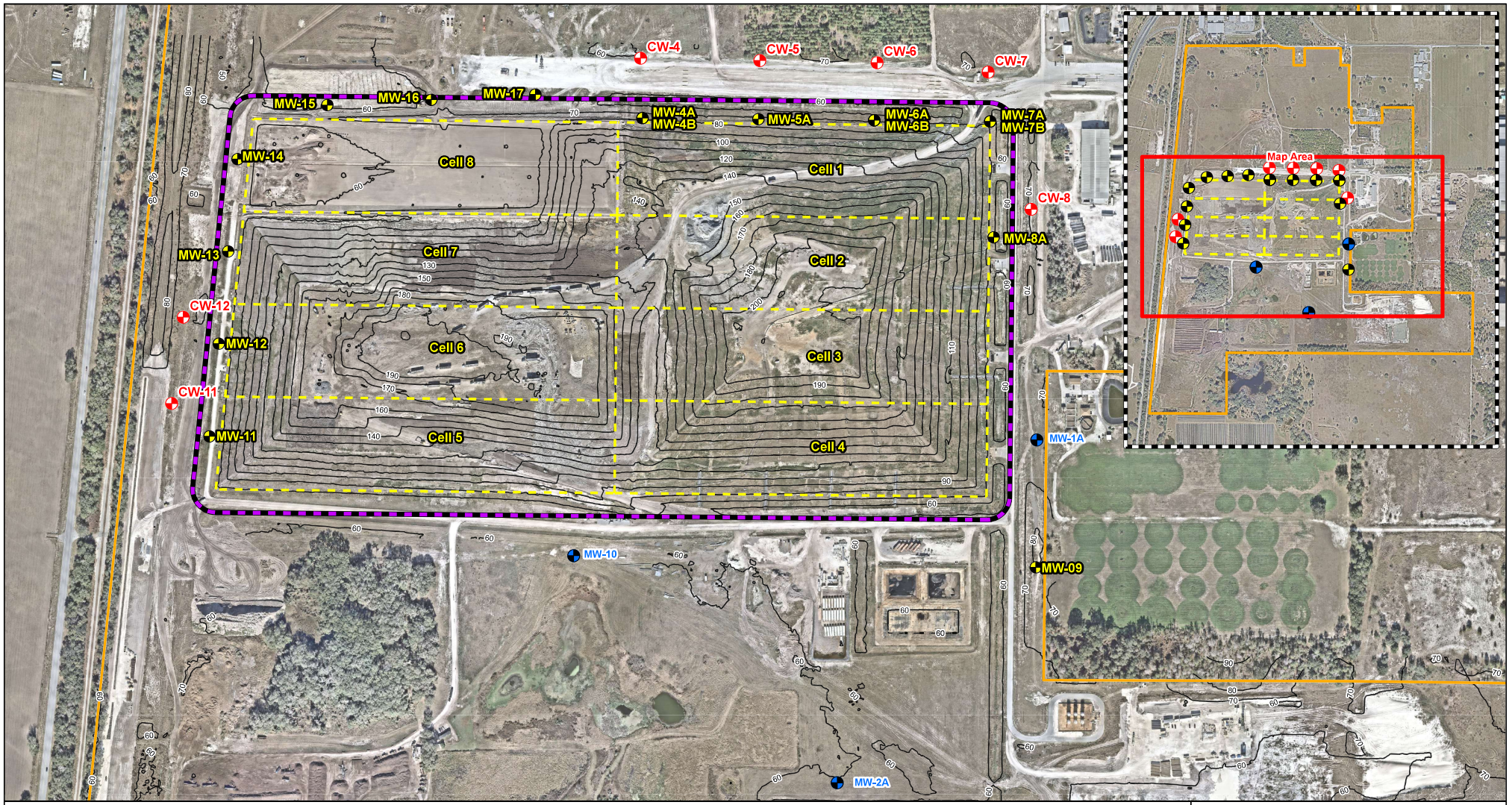
Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Daniel.

Daniel Montiel, Ph.D., P.G. (FL)
Project Hydrogeologist
Geosyntec consultants
engineers | scientists | innovators

19321 U.S. Highway 19 North
Building C, Suite 200
Clearwater, FL 33764
Phone: 727-330-9955
Mobile: 727-253-9423
www.Geosyntec.com

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Legend

- Proposed Compliance Monitoring Well
- Background Monitoring Well
- Detection Monitoring Well
- Landfill Cell Boundary
- Compliance Line of the Zone of Discharge
- HOF Landfill Boundary

Note:
Aerial photograph Source: Nearmap, HERE; captured 20 December 2025.

N

0 380 Feet

Proposed Well Locations

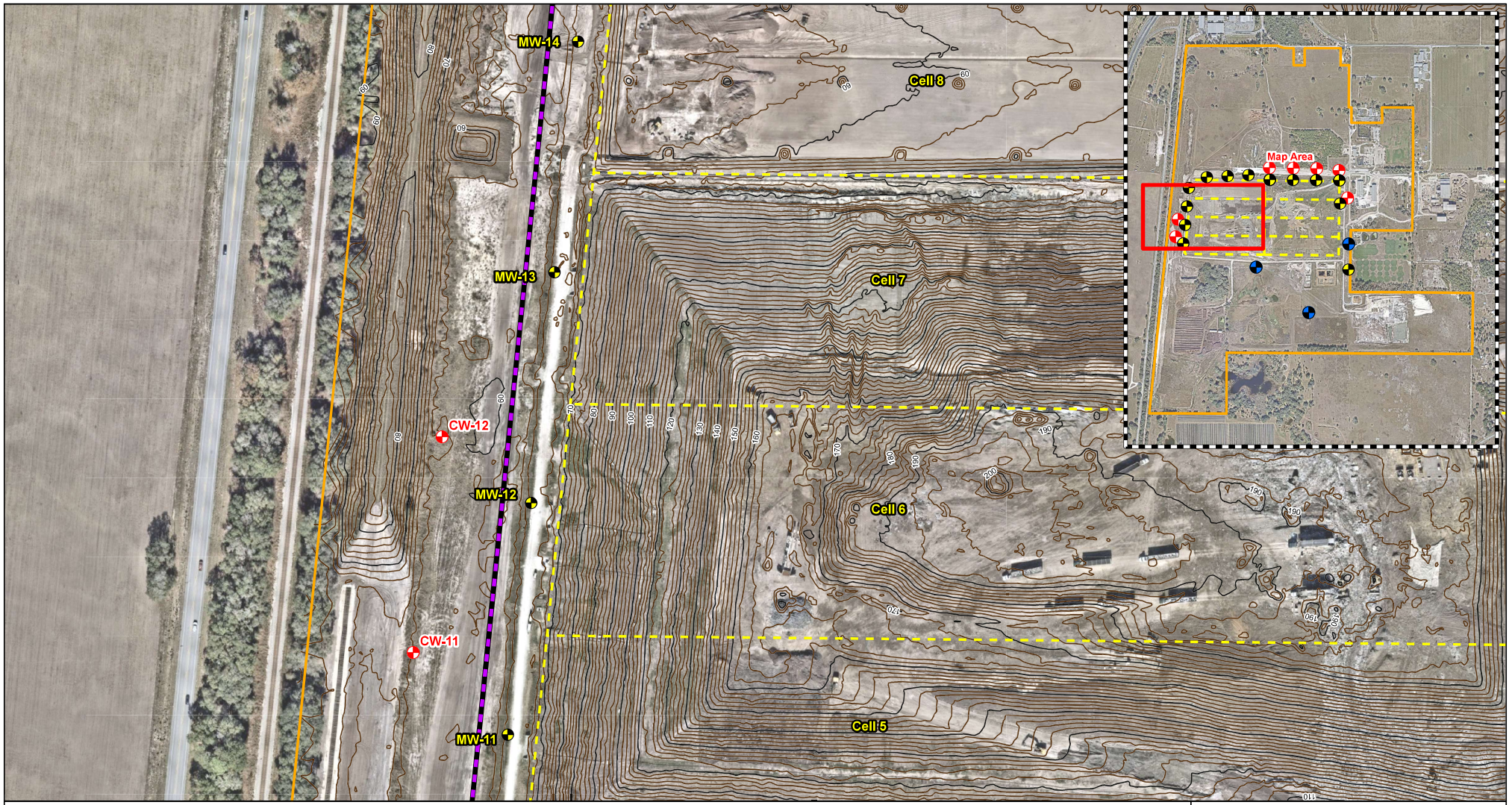
HOF Landfill Facility
Lake Panasoffkee, FL

Geosyntec consultants

Figure 1

Clearwater, FL | September 2026

Path: (\\tlswil\c-01\DATA) \\tlswil\c-01\data\GIS\FL3835_HOF_Landfill\PRO\202609\HOF_fl_F_202609.aprx 10 September 2026. Last Edited by: Janelle.Roach



Legend

- Proposed Compliance Monitoring Well
- Detection Monitoring Well
- Landfill Cell Boundary
- Compliance Line of the Zone of Discharge
- HOF Landfill Boundary

Note:
Aerial photograph Source: Nearmap, HERE; captured 20 December 2025.

N

0 160 Feet

Proposed Well Locations (West)

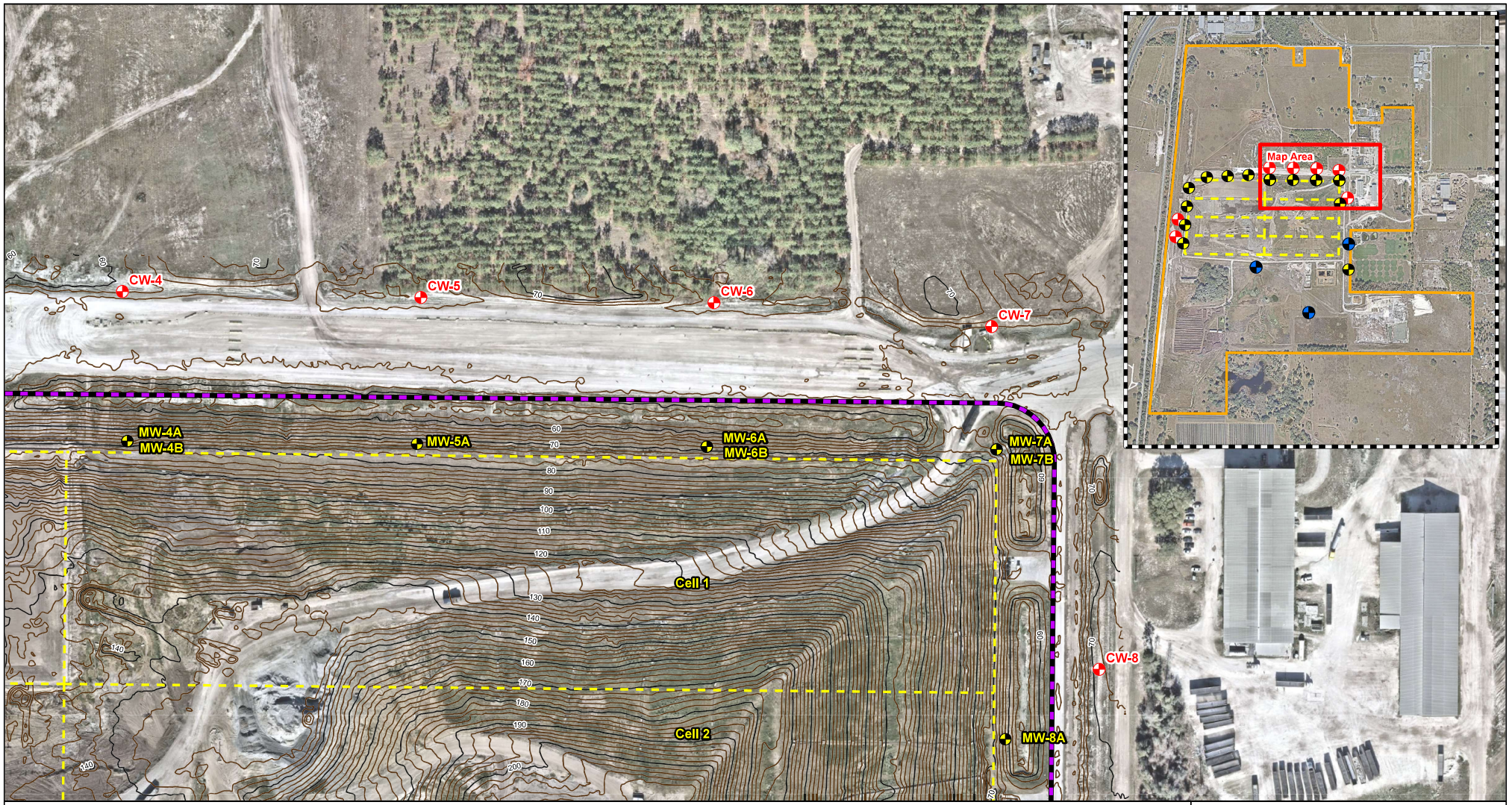
HOF Landfill Facility
Lake Panasoffkee, FL

Geosyntec consultants

Figure 2

Clearwater, FL | September 2026

Path: (\\tlhvwilfs-01\DATA) \\tlhvwilfs-01\data\DGIS\FL3835_HOF_Landfill\PRO\202609\HOF_fl_F_202609.aprx 10 September 2026. Last Edited by: Janelle.Roach



Legend

- Proposed Compliance Monitoring Well
- Detection Monitoring Well
- Landfill Cell Boundary
- Compliance Line of the Zone of Discharge
- HOF Landfill Boundary

Note:
Aerial photograph Source: Nearmap, HERE; captured 20 December 2025.

N

0 160 Feet

Proposed Well Locations (Northeast)

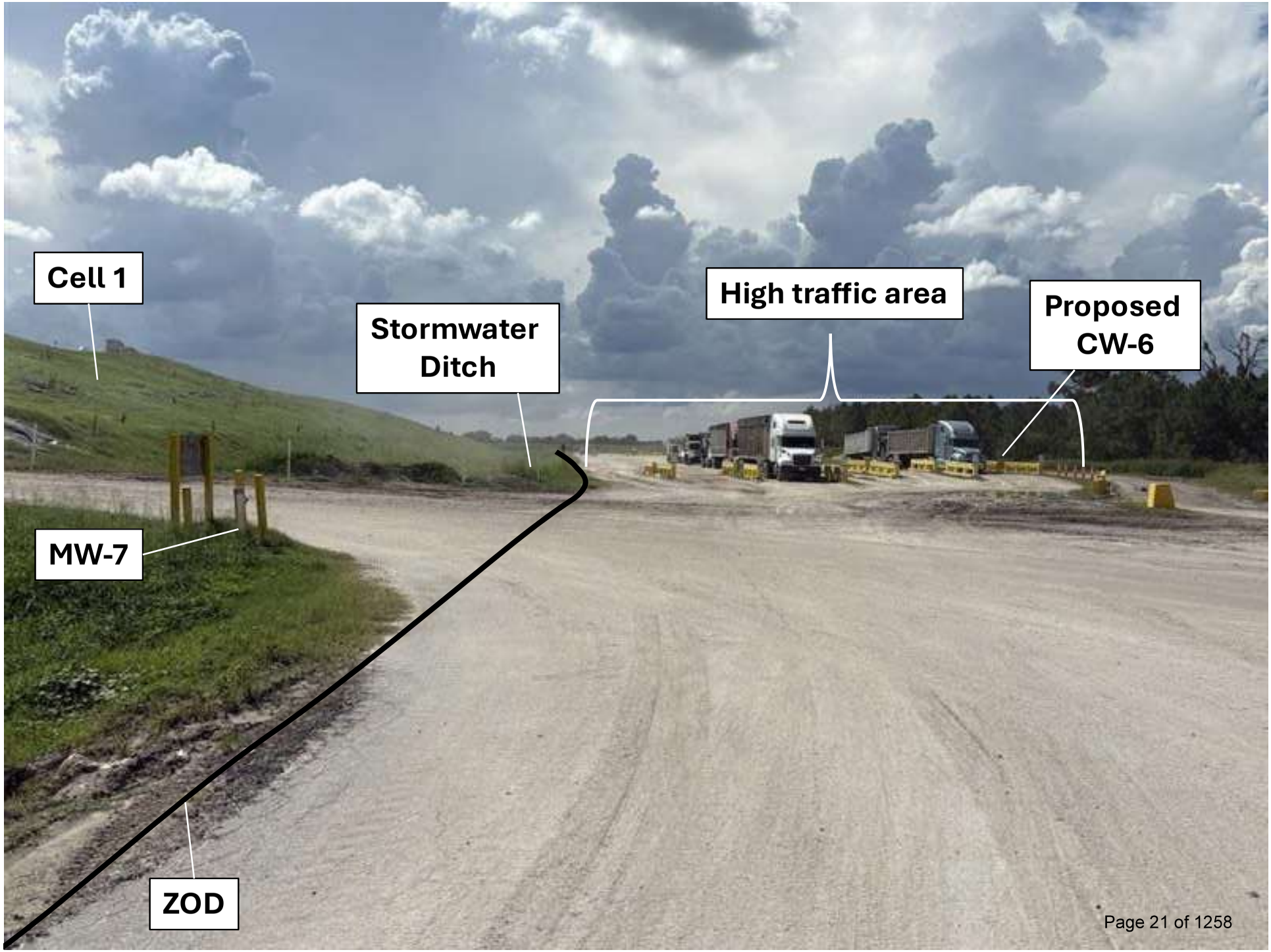
HOF Landfill Facility
Lake Panasoffkee, FL

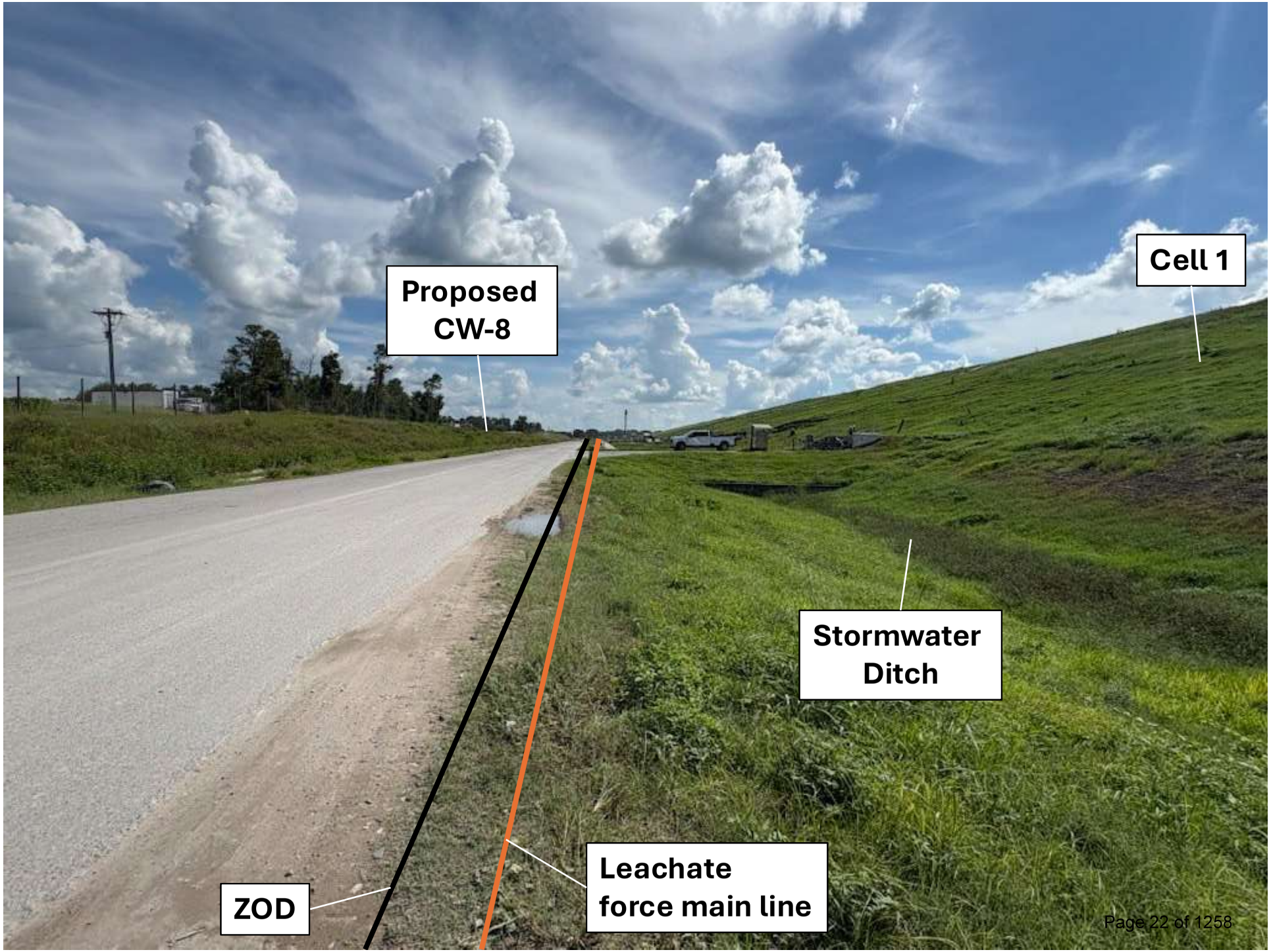
Geosyntec consultants

Clearwater, FL | September 2026

Figure 3

Path: (\\tlhvwilfs-01\DATA) \\tlhvwilfs-01\data\DGIS\FL3835_HOF_Landfill\PRO\202609\HOF_fl_F_202609.aprx 10 September 2026. Last Edited by: Janelle.Roach


Cell 1
Stormwater Ditch
High traffic area
Proposed CW-6
MW-7
ZOD


Proposed
CW-8
Cell 1
Stormwater
Ditch
Leachate
force main line
ZOD

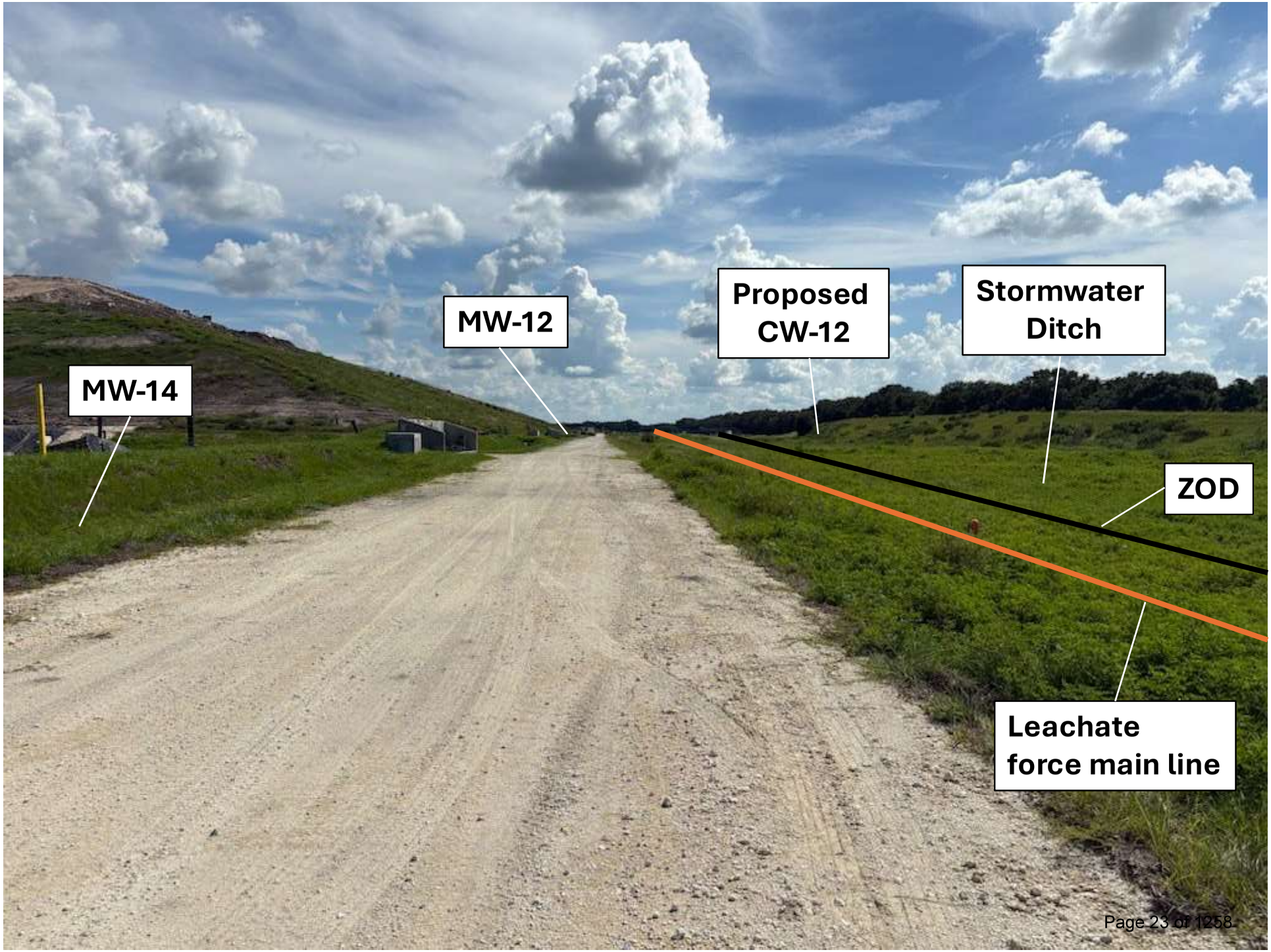

MW-14
MW-12
Proposed CW-12
Stormwater Ditch
ZOD
Leachate force main line

Table 1 - Proposed Monitoring Well Construction Details
ACMS Heart of Florida Class I Landfill
Lake Panasoffkee, Florida

Well ID	WACS ID	Monitoring Well Type	Well Diameter (in)	Sand Pack	Screen Slot Size	Approximate Easting (NAD 1983)	Approximate Northing (NAD 1983)	Approximate TOC Elevation (ft NGVD29)	Approximate Total Depth (ft BTOC)	Screen Length (ft)	Approximate Depth (ft BTOC)		Approximate Well Screen Elevation (ft NGVD29)	
											Top	Bottom	Top	Bottom
CW-4	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	625047	1602346	65	29	10	19	29	46	36
CW-5	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	625562	1602336	66	31	10	21	31	45	35
CW-6	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	626068	1602327	67	29	10	19	29	48	38
CW-7	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	626547	1602286	67	26	10	16	26	51	41
CW-8	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	626733	1601694	74	35	10	25	35	49	39
CW-11	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	623024	1600856	65	28	10	18	28	47	37
CW-12	NA	Compliance	2	20/30	10	623054	1601233	66	29	10	19	29	47	37
MW-14	31308	Detection	2	20/30	10	623302	1601911	67	29	10	19	29	48	38

Notes:
in indicates inches
ft indicates feet
NAD 1983 indicates North American Datum 1983, Florida State Plane, West Zone, US Feet.
NGVD29 indicates the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929
TOC indicates Top of Casing
BTOC indicates Below Top of Casing

From: Elijah Vandergriff
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Arnold, Bradley
Cc: Mike Eastburn ; Morgan Wilson ; Don Grigg
Subject: FW: A.C.M.S., Inc (Heart of Florida) Class I Landfill, Air Facility ID No. 1190053

Good afternoon Mr. Arnold,

The attached letter is a standard notification provided to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) whenever the installation of landfill gas extraction wells are scheduled at a landfill.

Following an extensive planning and design process, we are pleased to announce the upcoming expansion of the landfill gas extraction system at the Heart of Florida Landfill. Although this system is not currently required by the FDEP or the EPA, Heart of Florida has consistently invested in enhancements to this system, year after year, as part of our commitment to environmental stewardship and operational excellence.

This expansion effort is one of the most significant installations to date. Construction is scheduled to begin in early October-2026 and will continue into 2027. The first phase is anticipated to be completed and online by the end of this year, with the second phase expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2027. Naturally, the project timeline is subject to change based on weather conditions and construction-related factors.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Elijah

From: Don Grigg <Don.Grigg@WasteConnections.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 2:19 PM
To: dep_cd@floridadep.gov
Cc: Elijah Vandergriff <Elijah.Vandergriff@WasteConnections.com>; Min Chun <Min.Chun@WasteConnections.com>
Subject: A.C.M.S., Inc (Heart of Florida) CLass I Landfill, Air Facility ID No. 1190053

Attached, please find Notification of Potential Disturbance of Previously Disposed Asbestos-Containing Material for the A.C.M.S., Inc (Heart of Florida) Class I Landfill.

Regards,

Don Grigg
Region Engineer | Southern Region

WASTE CONNECTIONS
Connect with the Future®

September 11, 2026

Compliance Assurance Program
Central District – Waste & Air Resource Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3319 Maguire Boulevard, Suite 232
Orlando, Florida 32803

Re: Notification of Potential Disturbance of
Previously Disposed Asbestos-Containing Material
A.C.M.S., Inc. (Heart of Florida) Class I Landfill
FDEP Permit No. 1190053-007-AV
Facility ID No. 1190053
Sumter County, Florida

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of A.C.M.S., Inc., a Waste Connections company, and in accordance with the Asbestos NESHAPS regulations listed in 40 CFR 61.154(j), and Paragraph A.9.j of the above referenced FDEP Permit No., please find the attached 45-day Notification for Potential Disturbance of Previously Disposed Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) for the A.C.M.S., Inc. (d/b/a Heart of Florida) Class I Landfill. The purpose of the waste disturbance is for the expansion of the Facility's Landfill Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) and includes drilling and installation of associated piping during 2026 and 2027. We estimate that construction activities will begin in October and last approximately two to six months. As such, there may be a potential for disturbing asbestos material during the system installation work. Any ACM waste encountered will be managed in accordance with the facility's operation plan. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me directly at (352) 569-0465.

Sincerely,

Don Grigg
Southern Region Engineer
A.C.M.S., Inc./Waste Connections

Attachment: Notification for Potential Disturbance of Previously Disposed Asbestos-Containing Material

cc: E. Vandergriff, Waste Connections
M. Chun, Waste Connections

Notification of Potential Disturbance of
Previously Disposed Asbestos-Containing Material

Name of Facility:	A,C,M,S., Inc (Heart of Florida) Class I Landfill FDEP Solid Waste Operating Permit No. 161263-014-SO-01 FDEP Title V Air Permit No. 1190053-007-AV
Address:	1032 County Road 529A Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
Facility Contact:	Elijah Vandergriff, Senior District Manager
Contact Telephone:	(352) 569-0465
Project Description:	Installation of Odor Control and Management System Components and Associated Piping
Project Purpose:	Expansion of the Facility's Odor Control and Management System
Estimated Start Date:	October 2026
Estimated Completion Date:	March 2027

Procedure to Control Emissions during Installations: There will be no visible particulate emissions during excavation, drilling, temporary storage, transportation, or re-disposal activities of the waste materials containing asbestos. Excavated material and well boring cuttings containing asbestos will be wetted as necessary to preclude generation of airborne asbestos. Excavated material and cuttings containing asbestos will be temporarily accumulated next to the excavation/borehole for no more than several hours, followed by transportation to an onsite, asbestos disposal area. No overnight temporary cutting storage will occur of asbestos material. The re-disposal activities of asbestos material will be in accordance with the facility's permit requirements for asbestos disposal. The construction contractor will develop a project health and safety plan to safeguard on-site workers.

Location of Temporary Cutting Storage:	Next to each of the excavations or the gas extraction well borings
Location of Final Disposal Site:	A.C.M.S., Inc. Heart of Florida Class I Landfill