# MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE PERMIT MAJOR AMENDMENT

# PART III-ATTACHMENT E Geology Report



NAME OF PROJECT: Beck Landfill MSW PERMIT APPLICATION NO.: 1848A OWNER: Nido, LTD (CN603075011) OPERATOR: Beck Landfill (RN102310968) CITY, COUNTY: Schertz, Guadalupe County

> Major Amendment: September 2022 Revised February 2024

Prepared by:



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# 1.0 GEOLOGY REPORT (§330.63(E))

This portion of the application applies to owners or operators of MSW landfills, compost units, and if otherwise requested by the executive director. The geology report has been prepared and signed by a qualified groundwater scientist. The previously prepared permit documents relating to Geology, Aquifers, Groundwater, etc. are included as Appendices to this Report for continuity with prior permitting actions, as noted below.

- Appendix E-1 Letter to TCEQ from January 27, 1999
- Appendix E-2 Snowden, 1989, Attachment 3C Water Wells
- Appendix  $E-3$  Cross Sections

# 1.1 Regional Geology (§330.63(e)(1))

The regional geology described herein includes from the ground surface to the base of the lowermost aquifer capable of providing usable groundwater within Guadalupe County, Texas. Those regional formations and structural features of significance to the Beck Landfill site are discussed below. Figure E-1 shows the surface geology of the subject area of Guadalupe County and adjoining counties and mapped fault lines of the Balcones Fault Zone. The Balcones Fault Zone has been inactive for nearly 15 million years and is considered a very low risk for earthquake hazard by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Figure E-2 is a generalized stratigraphic column of the region that indicates the geologic age, range of thickness, formation lithology and water supply usage. Quaternary, Tertiary and Cretaceous System formations outcrop within the region of review. These formations are mainly comprised of sand, sandstone, gravel, clay, mudstone, shale, and marl. The stratigraphic sequence of formations that outcrop in the review region from the land surface to the base of the lowermost aquifer capable of providing usable groundwater is shown on the generalized stratigraphic column on Figure E-2.

As indicated on the stratigraphic column, the youngest formation that outcrops in the area is the Holocene Series alluvium consisting of clay, silt, sand, and gravel deposited in the floodplain along major stream channels in the southern portion of the subject region. The Holocene Series alluvium is documented to be as much as 25 feet in thickness. The Holocene alluvium lies unconformably over the older Pleistocene Series Leona Formation, and Tertiary and Cretaceous series formations where Leona Formation beds have been eroded away.

Two Pleistocene Series formations outcrop within the mapped region. From youngest to oldest these are the fluviatile terrace deposits and Leona Formation. The fluviatile terrace deposits in the region of review are comprised of sand, silt, clay, and some gravel that were laid down as point bars, oxbows and abandoned channel fill. These fluviatile terrace deposits generally occupy a positioned above the Holocene floodplains of entrenched streams and may obtain a thickness of up to 30 feet based on a review of State Water Well Reports for wells drilled in Guadalupe County. The Pleistocene Series terrace unconformably overlie the older Pleistocene Series Leona Formation, where not eroded away, or Tertiary and Cretaceous system formations where the Leona was removed by erosion

The Leona Formation of the review region consist of gravel, sand, silt, and caliche deposited as wide fluviatile terraces. The gravel and sand beds of the Leona are stratified and partly cross bedded with lenses of caliche and silt. The Leona is believed to obtain a maximum thickness of about 60 feet. The Leona Formation rests unconformably on top of Tertiary and Cretaceous system formations.

The youngest of the Tertiary System formations that outcrops within the review region is the Pliocene Series Uvalde Gravel; the deposition of which may have also occurred during the early Pleistocene. This formation is comprised of caliche-cemented gravel, cobbles, and some small boulders. Uvalde Gravel sediments were deposited as terraces and occupies topographically high areas that are not associated with present-day drainage. The thickness of this formation ranges from several feet to about 20 feet plus or minus. In the review region, the Uvalde Gravel unconformably overlies Tertiary and Cretaceous system formations.

Eocene and Paleocene series formations of the Tertiary System outcrop at the southeastern portion of the review region. These formations from youngest to oldest are:

- The Eocene Series Wilcox Group; and,
- The Paleocene Series Midway Group.

Both groups outcrop in the southeastern portion of the review region.

Within the review region, the Wilcox Group outcrops as a wide belt trending from the northeastward to the southwest. The Wilcox strata consists mostly of mudstone with some silt and very fine sand laminae. Variable amounts of sandstone and lignite also occur within the Wilcox Group. The sediments that comprise the Wilcox Group were deposited in palustrine and fluvial environments. The maximum thickness of this group is around 1,420 feet. The Wilcox Group grades vertically into the Midway Group resulting in a conformable contact.

The sediments that make up the Midway Group were deposited in coastal and marine environments. This group is predominately comprised of clay and silt with some lenses of sand and limestone. The Midway Group is about 500 feet thick and unconformably overlies the undivided Cretaceous System Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl.

Gulf and Comanche series formations of the Cretaceous System outcrop throughout the majority of the review region. These formations from youngest to oldest are:

- Gulf Series
	- o Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl (upper Taylor Group) undivided
	- o Pecan Gap Chalk (Lower Taylor Group)
	- o Austin Chalk
	- o Eagle Ford Group
	- o Del Rio Clay
- Comanche Series
	- o Buda Limestone
- o Del Rio Clay
- o Edwards Limestone undivided

The Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl undivided outcrops through the middle of the review region. The lithology of this undivided assemblage of formations includes marl, clay, sandstone, and siltstone. The sandstone beds are discontinuous and of limited lateral extent. This undivided assemblage is thought to be deposited in a shallow water, marginal marine environment. The Navarro-Marlbrook Marl is up to 580 feet in thickness and may rest conformably upon the Pecan Gap Chalk. This undivided assemblage of formations is unconformably overlain by Holocene and Pleistocene series formations at the Beck Landfill site and is the formation into which the landfill excavation will terminate.

The Pecan Gap Chalk outcrops in the northwestern portion of the review region, within the Balcones Fault Zone. This formation is composed of chalk and chalky marl deposited in shallow shelf, shoreface and transgressive marine environments. The Pecan Gap ranges from 100 feet to 400 feet in thickness and unconformably overlies the Austin Chalk.

The Austin Chalk further northwest of Beck Landfill site in a highly faulted area of the Balcones Fault Zone. The lithology of this formation includes chalk and marl with localized occurrences of bentonitic seams. The Austin carbonates accumulated in a low-energy shallow to open – shelf and shoal environment. The Austin Chalk thickness ranges from 350 feet to 580 feet and unconformably overlies the Eagle Ford Group.

The oldest formation of the Gulf Series is the Eagle Ford Group which is also referred to as the Eagle Ford Shale. Outcroppings of the Eagle Ford Group are limited to the highly faulted portion of the Balcones Fault Zone in the northwestern area of the review region. The Eagle Ford lithology includes shale, siltstone and flaggy limestone deposited as deltaic and marine sediment. The Eagle Ford Group contact with the underlying Buda Limestone is unconformable and is 30 feet to 75 feet thick.

The Buda Limestone is the upper formation of the Comanche Series. As with the Austin Chalk and Eagle Ford Group, outcroppings of Buda Limestone are mostly restricted to the highly faulted portion of the Balcones Fault Zone within the northwestern limits of the review region. Sediments for this limestone formation were deposited in an open-shelf marine environment. The formation lithology is fine grained poorly bedded to nodular limestone that becomes argillaceous near its upper contact. The contact between the Buda Limestone and the Del Rio Clay is unconformable. The thickness of the Buda strata ranges from 60 feet to 100 feet within the review region.

Outcroppings of the Del Rio Clay, formally called the Grayson Formation, are restricted to the highly faulted area of the Balcones Fault Zone within the northwestern portion of the review region. The depositional environment for Del Rio sediments were lagoonal and nearshore shallow marine. Calcareous and gypsiferous clay with some thin lenticular beds of calcareous siltstone make up the Del Rio lithology. The thickness of this formation ranges from 60 feet to 120 feet. The Del Rio Clay conformably overlies the undivided Edwards Group.

The undivided Edwards Group outcrops in the far northwestern portion of the review region and is within the northwestern extent of the Balcones Fault Zone. The lithology of this undivided formation consists of fine to coarse grained massive limestone with abundant chert and solution zones deposited in a shallow water marine environment. The undivided Edwards Group ranges from 300 feet to 500 feet.

# 1.2 Local Geological Processes (§330.63(e)(2))

30 TAC 330.559 defines an unstable area as a location that is susceptible to natural or human-induced events or forces capable of impairing the integrity of some or all landfill structural components responsible for preventing releases from the landfill. Unstable areas can include poor foundation conditions, areas susceptible to mass movement, and karst terrains. The Beck Landfill was excavated through alluvial materials (sand and gravel) to the undivided Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl, which consist of clay and shale material (impermeable). Evidence of active detrimental on-site geologic activity has not been documented within the landfill area. No on-site or local human-made features or events were observed to have created unstable conditions.

The Balcones Fault Zone is a system of normal faults that traverses the review region from the northeast to the southwest. This fault zone is associated with the Paleozoic-age Ouachita Fold Belt, a remnant of an ancient highly eroded mountain range which is buried beneath the Balcones Fault Zone. Movement along the Balcones faults took place mainly during the Miocene Epoch. Data contained within the USGS Quaternary Fault and Fold Database indicates that no Holocene displacement of faults within the Balcones Fault Zone has occurred. The Beck Landfill (shown with a star) is not located within the Balcones Fault Zone as shown in the image below.



FIGURE ABOVE DEPICTS THE BALCONES FAULT ZONE AND THE LOCATION OF THE BECK LANDFILL (STAR) LOCATED TO THE SOUTH.

The Ouachita Fold Belt caused regional tilting and uplifting of Paleozoic rocks that underlie the review region. Pre-Cretaceous erosion of the uplifted Paleozoic rocks created a southeast dipping regional erosional surface or unconformity upon which Cretaceous System sediments were deposited. This regional unconformity and extensive faulting are the most significant structural features affecting the Cretaceous System and Paleocene Series formations within the review region. The Ouachita Fold Belt regional unconformity affected the deposition of both Cretaceous and Tertiary system sediments bringing about the creation of wedge-shaped formation bodies that thicken southeastward towards the Gulf Coast. Figure E-3 is a simplified down-the-coast oriented regional stratigraphic cross-section through central Guadalupe County which illustrates the geometry and dip of the review region formations. The Beck Landfill and adjacent areas is documented to be devoid of Holocene displacement along those faults of the Balcones Fault Zone or active land surface subsidence and does not appear to meet the definition of an "unstable area". Figure E-4 shows the landfill location in relation to areas of known Holocene fault displacement. Figures E-8 and E-9 show the landfill location relative to the seismic risk, which is "very low" according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Risk Index for earthquakes.

# 1.3 Regional Aquifers (§330.63(e)(3))

Four aquifers are utilized for water supplies within the review region. The four aquifers that outcrop and/or subcrop the review region are: the Carrizo – Wilcox, Edwards, Austin, and the Leona aquifers. The Carrizo – Wilcox and Edwards aquifers are classified by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as major aquifers, with the Leona and Austin being classified as "other" by the TWDB. No aquifers classified as minor outcrop or subcrop the review region. A map depicting the location of the Beck Landfill relative to the Carrizo – Wilcox, zones of the Edwards, Austin and Leona aquifers is provided as Figure E-5. Those geologic formations and groups associated with the above referred aquifers and the rock/sediment makeup of each aquifer are listed from youngest to oldest in geologic age in Table 1 below.



## TABLE 1 REGIONAL AQUIFERS

Of these four aquifers, the Leona, Austin, and Edwards either outcrop near the Beck Landfill site boundary or underlie it. The Carrizo – Wilcox outcrops approximately 7.75 miles southeast of the landfill site and it highly unlikely to be affected by landfill activities. Therefore, no further discussion regarding the Carrizo – Wilcox follows this text. Figure E-5 shows the outcrop areas of the above referenced aquifers in relation to the landfill location.

As shown in Table 1 above, the Leona Aquifer is comprised of gravel and sand with lenses of caliche and silt. Hydraulic properties data for the Leona Aquifer within the review region and Guadalupe County

appears to be nonexistent in readily available State groundwater reports. However, data pertaining to the range of the average hydraulic conductivity for the Leona Aquifer in neighboring Caldwell County was obtained. According to the source, the average Leona hydraulic conductivity ranged from 37 feet/day to 397 feet/day. Yields for water well producing from the Leona range from 1 gallon/minute (gpm) to 500 gpm are reported on State Water Well Reports obtained from the TWDB for wells producing for the Leona Aquifer and State groundwater reports.

The Leona Aquifer is under water table conditions. Recharge to this aquifer occurs where precipitation infiltrates Leona strata that outcrops within the review region. Additional recharge may also be received from streams entrenched in the Leona outcrop area during flood events. The Leona may provide some recharge to the Carrizo Willcox where Leona strata directly rest upon the Wilcox Group outcrop area in the southeastern corner of the review region. Recharge from the Leona to the Austin Aquifer is impeded by two aquitards that separate the Leona and Austin. These two aquicludes are the Cretaceous Series Pecan Gap Chalk and undivided Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl, which underlie the Leona at the Beck Landfill site.

Maps showing the regional Leona water table surface were not identified during a review of readily available regional hydrogeologic literature. Being unconfined and assuming the absence of pumping well interference, the Leona water table surface most likely mimics the land surface topography flowing in the direction of lower topographical elevations and entrenched stream channels. Historical water table elevation measurements taken at the Beck Landfill site during groundwater monitoring events indicate groundwater flow in the Leona is towards Cibolo Creek supporting the regional flow direction conclusion. Regional rates of groundwater flow through the Leona Aquifer were not found in the reviewed readily available regional hydrogeologic literature. Using the range of average Leona hydraulic conductivities presented earlier, an estimated effective porosity of 0.25 for sand and gravel and an assumed hydraulic gradient of 0.003feet/foot (based on Beck Landfill historical water table elevation measurements), the estimated groundwater flow rate would range from 0.44 feet/day to 4.8 feet/day.

A review of State Water Well Reports for those water wells producing from the Leona Aquifer within the review region showed total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations to be less than 500 mg/L. Historical groundwater monitoring data for the Beck Landfill shows TDS concentrations ranged from 502 mg/L to 3460 mg/L (see Part III, Attachment F, Appendix F-2). These TDS concentrations indicate that groundwater in the Leona Aquifer can be categorized as fresh to moderately saline. Groundwater withdrawn from the Leona Aquifer is utilized for public supply, domestic, irrigation and livestock purposes.

The Austin Aquifer is comprised of chalk and marl, which outcrop west and northwest of the Beck Landfill site within the Balcones Fault zone. These outcrop areas are highly faulted and of limited extent in the review region. Recharge to the Austin Aquifer occurs by direct infiltration of precipitation on its outcrop area and by limited seepage from streams that cross the outcrop areas. The Austin is most likely under water table conditions in its outcrop area but goes to a confined (artesian) condition southeast (downdip) of its outcrop areas where it is overlain by the Pecan Gap Chalk and undivided Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl strata that form aquitards hydraulically separating it from the overlying Leona Aquifer. The Austin is underlain by strata belonging to the Eagle Ford Group, Buda Limestone and Del Rio Clay which form aquitards that separate it from the deeper Edwards Aquifer.

Maps showing the Austin Chalk regional water table surface and potentiometric surface, where confined, were not included in the reviewed, readily available regional hydrogeologic literature. However, the regional hydrogeologic literature reviewed did state that the predominate direction of groundwater flow within the Austin Aquifer is southeastward toward the Gulf Coast. The regional hydrogeologic literature also pointed out that localized variations in flow direction occur due to fault barriers or withdrawals of

groundwater by pumping water wells. Where groundwater movement comes under the influence of pumping water wells, groundwater flow is towards the wells from all directions.

Hydraulic properties data for the Austin Aquifer within the review region was not found in readily available State groundwater reports or other hydrogeologic literature. However, data regarding well yield for water well producing from the Austin Aquifer were obtained from State Water Well Reports and one TWDB groundwater report. According to these sources, well yields range from 2 gpm to 60 gpm.

Data pertaining to TDS concentrations in groundwater withdrawn from the Austin Aquifer were obtained from State Water Well Reports for water wells producing from the Austin within the review region and reviewed TWDB groundwater reports. According to this data, TDS concentrations in Austin Aquifer groundwater range from 385 mg/L to 1,528 mg/L. These TDS concentrations indicate that groundwater in the Austin Aquifer mostly fresh but can be moderately saline at some locations. Groundwater withdrawn from the Austin is used for public supply, domestic and livestock purposes.

As pervious stated, the Edwards Aquifer is classified by the TWDB as a major aquifer and located northwest of the Beck Landfill site. This major aquifer is comprised of fine to coarse grained massive limestone with abundant chert and solution zones. The Edwards outcrops northwest of the Beck Landfill site within the Balcones Fault zone. Recharge to the Edwards Aquifer occurs by direct infiltration of precipitation on its outcrop area and some seepage from streams that cross its outcrop area. The Edwards is under water table conditions in its outcrop area but becomes confined southeast of it outcrop area being overlain by strata of the Eagle Ford Group, Buda Limestone and Del Rio Clay which form aquitards that hydraulically separate it from the overlying Austin Aquifer.

The Leona Aquifer and associated Leona Formation consists of several isolated alluvial deposits at the edge of the Edwards Plateau. It is mapped as existing beneath the Beck Landfill (see Figure E-5). This alluvium aquifer is recharged by infiltration of precipitation and is discharged by numerous springs and seeps. The saturated thickness is rarely greater than ten feet. The saturated zone varies seasonally. Groundwater flow and hydraulic conductivity is influenced by the heterogeneous nature of the alluvium deposit. The arithmetic mean of hydraulic conductivity in vertical profiles ranges from 0.013 cm/sec to 0.14 cm/sec<sup>1</sup>. Elevated nitrate levels are common ranging from 4 parts per million to 70 parts per million. Due to activity at the landfill, the Leona Aquifer has been removed within the embankment of the Beck Landfill. No information on the potentiometric surface or specific hydraulic dynamics in Guadalupe County was identified. The Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District (GCGCD) studies, conserves, preserves, and protects the Carrizo and Wilcox Aquifers, but makes no mention of the Leona.

To demonstrate regional groundwater trends, Figure E-6 shows the regional water table surface and potentiometric surfaces of the Edwards Aquifer in July 1974, republished in 1986. No changes in regional groundwater flows since this time are known at the time of this application. As shown on this figure, the direction of groundwater flow within the unconfined portion of the Edwards is southeastward toward the Gulf Coast, then turning to the northeast upon transitioning to confined conditions. Where groundwater movement locally comes under the influence of pumping water wells, groundwater flow is towards the wells from all directions.

The hydraulic conductivity of the Edwards Aquifer is documented as ranging from 2 feet/day to 31 feet/day, with transmissivities ranging from "negligible" to 2 million feet<sup>2</sup>/day. Well yield for water well producing from the Edwards Aquifer within the review region range from 15 gpm to 160 gpm. The estimated rates of groundwater flow through the Edwards range from 2 feet/day to 31 feet/day.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hydrogeology of heterogeneous alluvium in the Leona aquifer, Caldwell County, Texas. Sharp, John Malcolm. May 2005.

TDS concentrations data for groundwater withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer were taken from State Water Well Reports for water wells producing from the Edwards within the review region and reviewed TWDB groundwater reports. This data shows that TDS concentrations in Edwards Aquifer groundwater range from 247 mg/L to 8,249 mg/L. The distribution of these TDS concentrations across the review region show that Edwards groundwater at the northwestern half of the review region can be categorized as be fresh to slightly saline and moderately saline in the southern half of the review region. Groundwater withdrawn from the Edwards is used for public supply, domestic and livestock purposes.

A list of all water wells located within one mile of the Beck Landfill from which groundwater is withdrawn of use is provided in **Table 2** below. The locations of these water wells are shown of Figure E-7.



#### TABLE 2 WATER WELLS WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE BECK LANDFILL BOUNDARIES

Sources: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Data Viewer and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Well Report Viewer, Accessed on April 19, 2021

# 1.4 Subsurface Conditions (§330.63(e)(4))

The original geotechnical analysis and supplemental borings drilled in 2020 are presented under Part III, Attachment D5, Appendix D5-C. Additional geotechnical information is provided in that attachment in support of this application. The information provided below synthesizes information submitted with the original application (Snowden, 1989) as relevant to this rule requirement, as supplemented by borings advanced in 2020.

Per Snowden (Subsurface Conditions, 1989), a series of borings, along a 400 foot grid layout within the confines of the project area was proposed to the Texas Department of Health (TDH). The TDH approved the investigative proposal with the understanding that some individual boring locations were subject to equipment accessibility and thus may be delated. Omission of boring could not however compromise the development of an adequate subsurface stratigraphic relationship. A total of fifty-four (54) borings were advanced. Each of the proposed boring locations is indicated on the original boring plan, but only those designated by grid numbers were actually drilled. A continuous flight auger system, either of a solid or hollow stem type, was employed in the advancement of the borings. An updated cross-sectional analysis of this boring plan and boring lot set is provided as Part III, Attachment 3, Appendix E-3 of this Report. The locations and elevations are approximated based on best available information today. A Table is provided for references.

Representative samples of the subsurface sediments were obtained from selected borings. Undisturbed or Shelby tube samples were recovered to represent much of the clay-shale penetration as recorded on the accompanying logs. Auger samples were generally recovered to represent the stream deposited stratum. All samples were immediately sealed to preserve in-situ states and moisture conditions as near as possible.

The analysis of the soil samples was performed in a soils laboratory. Testing generally conformed to an appropriate A.S.T.M specification as per the soil property being determined. The values of permeability, each expressed as centimeters per second, were derived by a constant head method utilizing flexible wall permeameters. The recompacted samples were also tested by the same method. Permeability was determined for selected clay samples from six (6) widely spaced borings. The samples were chosen as to be representative of the entirety of the clay formation underlying the proposed site and/or to confirm the impermeable nature of the natural clay. Atterberg Limits were determined from un-tested portions of the permeability samples, in order to formulate a basis of comparison, with the plasticity indexes, as determined from other sampled borings. A comparison of this nature should support the suitability of the particular natural clay, as relevant to the proposed site usage. Sieve and Hydrometer analysis were not performed, as the majority of the laboratory investigation was concentrated on materials predominantly of clay minerals. Such clay materials would generally pass the #200 sieve.

The conclusions of the laboratory testing are given on the tables included in Part III, Attachment D-5, Appendix D5-C. The findings of the exploratory borings as depicted by the boring logs, along with the other aspects of the field accumulated datum, allowed an analysis of the subsurface conditions existing at the proposed site.

A supplemental geotechnical investigation was conducted by Terracon in the southeast portion of the landfill in September 2020 to revisit the findings of the original investigation. The investigation was conducted in accordance with 30 TAC  $\S 330.63(e)(4)$  and  $\S 330.63(e)(5)$ . A total of eight borings were advanced in the approximately 12-acre area, consistent with the guidance of 6-10 borings in 30 TAC §330.63(e)(4)(B) for a study area of 10-20 acres. A boring plan detailing the proposed investigation was submitted by POWER Engineers, Inc. to the TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Permits section on August 17, 2020. No changes to the proposed number and depth of the borings were requested due to site conditions in the proposed boring plan. No geophysical methods, such as electrical resistivity, were proposed for use as part of this study to reduce the number of required borings. The TCEQ received the boring plan for review on August 31, 2020, and issued an approval letter dated September 3, 2020. A copy of the approved boring plan and TCEQ approval letter are included with this submittal as Part III, Attachment D5, Appendix D5-C.

The Terracon Geotechnical Data Report indicates that borings were advanced with a truck-mounted drill rig utilizing continuous flight augers. Samples were obtained by Terracon continuously in the upper 10

ft. if each soil boring and at intervals of 5 ft. thereafter. A thin-wall tube or split-barrel tube was utilized. In the thin-walled tube sampling procedure, a thin-walled, seamless steel tube with a sharp cutting edge was pushed hydraulically into the soil to obtain a relatively undisturbed soil sample. In the split-barrel sampling procedure, a standard 2-inch outer diameter split-barrel sampling spoon was utilized by Terracon and driven into the ground by a 140-pound automatic hammer falling a distance of 30 inches. The number of blows required to advance the sampling spoon the last 12 inches of a normal 18-inch penetration was recorded by Terracon as the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) resistance value. The SPT resistance values, also referred to as N-values, are indicated on the Terracon boring logs at the test depths. Terracon observed and recorded groundwater levels during drilling and sampling. Terracon backfilled all borings with bentonite chips after their completion.

Table 3 below summarizes the subsurface findings at each boring location. The Terracon Geotechnical Data Report with detailed information presented for each boring, including Unified Soil Classification System findings is included in Part III Attachment D-5. A discussion of the laboratory soil tests and findings by Terracon following boring activities is presented below. Cross-sections prepared from the findings are attached as Appendix E-3 to this Report.



### TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF SUBSURFACE SOIL FINDINGS



# 1.5 Geotechnical Data (§330.63(e)(5))

The original geotechnical analysis and supplemental borings are presented under Part III, Attachment D-5. Additional geotechnical information is provided in that attachment in support of this application. The information provided below synthesizes information submitted with the original application (Snowden, 1989) as relevant to this rule requirement, as supplemented by borings advanced in 2020.

The various soil layers identified in the soil borings were tested and evaluated to determine their index properties and there in situ undisturbed permeabilities. Clause  $325.74$  (b) (5) (I) (iii) of the TDH Municipal Solid Waste Regulations was used as a guide for these evaluations. This clause states as follows:

A laboratory report of soil characteristics shall be submitted consisting of a minimum of one sample from each soil layer that will form the bottom and sides of the proposed excavation. The design engineer should have as many additional tests performed as necessary to provide a typical profile of the soil stratifications within the site. No laboratory work need be performed on highly permeable soil layers which obviously will require lining. The soil samples shall be tested by a competent soils laboratory. The soil tests shall consist of the following:

1. Permeability tests, to be performed according to one of the following standards on undisturbed soil samples. Where excavations already exist on the site that are to be used for waste disposal, undisturbed samples shall be taken from the sidewalls of those excavations and said permeability tests made on the horizontal axis. All test results shall indicate the type of test used and the orientation of each sample.

Constant Head—ABTM D 2434; or

Falling Head—Appendix VII of the Corps of Engineers Manual EM 1110-2-1906, 30 Nov. 70, Laboratory Soils Testing.

- 2. Sieve analysis and hydrometer analysis: No.4, No.10, No.40, No.200, —200, and hydrometer analysis on —200 fraction—ASTM D422.
- 3. Atterberg Limits—ASTM D 423 and D 424.
- 4. Moisture Density Relations—ASTM D 69B.
- 5. Moisture Content—ASTM D 2216.

All soils bounded within the following range of values shall be tested in a soils laboratory for the coefficient of permeability. Normally all soils below the range of values stated in this subclause are very sandy and will require lining, unless additional test data support a deviation. Those soils which exceed the range of values are high in clay and do not require additional testing to prove their adequacy for sanitary landfill purposes. The physical parameters stated are to be considered as guidelines for soil sample testing. Engineering judgement must be used on those samples which exhibit some but not all of the boundary limits stated.

Plasticity Index 15 to 25, Liquid Limit 30 to 50, Percent Passing 30 to 50, No.200 Mesh Sieve (-200)

The sandy clays exhibit Liquid Limits (LL) of 26 to 46 and Plasticity Indices (PI) of 11 to 30. This soil layer requires testing to determine the coefficient of permeability. Samples from the silty clays were tested for permeability and were found to be well within required characteristic qualities when mixed with clays and bentonite as proposed as for use in the dike.

The clay and shale deposits exhibit Liquid Limits of 53 to 72 and Plasticity Indices of 37 to 52. This soil layer does not require additional permeability testing and is considered suitable for use as a natural liner.

The permeability test results from this project are presented in the Geotechnical Investigation Attachment 11 (Snowden, 1989 presented in Part III, Attachment D-5). It should be noted that soils with a high Plasticity Index may also exhibit substructures of seams or joints which may have an effect upon permeability. The gray shale beneath this project was not however observed to have significant permeable substructure. Based on our observations and the permeability test results, the Navarro & Taylor Deposits are expected to be suitable as natural liners provided that the slurry trench key is extended a minimum of five (5) feet into this shale.

The design as proposed for this project then will require the establishment of the soil bentonite slurry trench keyway to be excavated a minimum of 5 feet into the underlying shale, to insure against any substructure permeability and afford the greatest degree of integrity.

A supplemental Geotechnical Investigation was conducted by Terracon at the southeast portion of the Beck Landfill in September 2020. A general overview of the geotechnical data associated with the investigation is presented below. The full Terracon Geotechnical Data Report is attached as Part III, Attachment D5, Appendix D5-C .

## **1.5.1** Overview of Laboratory Investigation and Findings  $(330.63(e)(5)(A))$

Samples collected by Terracon during the field exploration were taken to the laboratory for further observation by the Terracon project geotechnical engineer and were classified in accordance with the United Soil Classification System (USCS). The following laboratory test methods were conducted by Terracon on selected soil samples from this investigation:

- Moisture Content (ASTM D2216);
- Atterberg Limits (ASTM D4318);
- Gradation of Soils using Sieve Analysis (ASTM D422);
- Percent Passing No. 4 and No. 200 Mesh Sieves (ASTM D1140); and
- Permeability Tests (ASTM D5084).

A grain size analysis through the use of ASTM D422 and ASTM D1140 was conducted for each boring location, including that represent the side and bottom of the landfill. A summary of grain size analysis findings is presented in Tables 4 to 11 below. Terracon runs all the sieves on the first portion of sample and then for the other two, they run the #4 and #200 screens, only. Any unreported percentages are larger than the #4 screen but are not listed as a size because they are not "graded". Further information on the

grain size analysis is available in the Terracon Geotechnical Data Report. Cross sections are provided in Part III, Section D-5.



#### TABLE 4 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-1 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (SIDE OF LANDFILL)

## TABLE 5 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-2 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (SIDE OF LANDFILL)



#### TABLE 6 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-3 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (SIDE OF LANDFILL)



#### TABLE 7 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-4 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (BOTTOM OF LANDFILL)





#### TABLE 8 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-5 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (BOTTOM OF LANDFILL)

#### TABLE 9 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-6 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (BOTTOM OF LANDFILL)



### TABLE 10 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-7 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (BOTTOM OF LANDFILL)



#### TABLE 11 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-8 GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS (BOTTOM OF LANDFILL)



## 1.5.2 Overview of Permeability, Atterberg Limits and Moisture Content Test Results  $(330.63(e)(5)(B))$

An analysis for soil moisture content (ASTM D2216), Atterberg Limits (ASTM D4318) and permeability tests (ASTM D5084) was conducted on samples obtained by Terracon during this investigation. Borings from the landfill side wall were tested on the horizontal axis and those from the bottom were tested on the vertical axis. A summary of findings for each test is presented in the tables below. Further information

detailing these findings is available in the Terracon Geotechnical Data Report in Part III, Attachment D5- Geotechnical Reports .

### TABLE 12 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-1 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY



#### TABLE 13 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-2 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY



<sup>2</sup> LL- Liquid Limit; PL – Plastic Limit; PI – Plasticity Index





### TABLE 15 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-4 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY



### TABLE 16 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-5 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY





#### TABLE 17 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-6 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY



### TABLE 18 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-7 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY



 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 



## TABLE 19 SUMMARY OF BORING FB-8 SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT, ATTERBERG LIMITS, AND PERMEABILITY

# 1.6 Overview of Encountered Groundwater (330.63(e)(5)(C))

During initial geotechnical investigations, groundwater was encountered by the exploratory borings in the alluvium terrace deposits. Water levels proved to be the equivalent of the static water level. An exception would be the few borings in which clay cuttings sealed off the water bearing zone. Generally, the static water level stabilized in the open bore holes within minutes of completion. As exploratory borings are small diameter excavations, and the thickness of the water bearing stratum was typically just a few feet, only low yield bailers could be used. In those borings in which bailing was attempted, the removal of water, equivalent to a bore volume, reflected no change in the static water elevation. The elevation of the ground water shortly after completion, was thus established as the static water elevation.

In 1989, recorded water well datum, as available at the Texas Water Commission, indicated two domestic wells to have been completed within an Alluvial aquifer in the proximity of the project area. The two wells (see Appendix E-2) within 500 feet of the project area are described in Part II of this report. These two wells appear to have been completed in the Leona Formation just above the Navarro Shale and were developed to produce private water supplies.

The perched ground water table, or Alluvial aquifer, though of significance to this proposed development, is not considered the primary use aquifer of the immediate area. The majority of the recorded water wells within a five mile radius of the project are producing from the Edwards aquifer. The Edwards aquifer should be in excess of approximately 500 feet beneath the site of this investigation. Seventy (70) feet of Navarro shale and an underlying 110 feet of Taylor shale is indicated by the log of well Kx 68-30-603. Equivalent shales should extend beneath this project and thus preclude any connection between the Edwards aquifer and the development of this project. The Navarro Shale was shown by the laboratory portion of this investigation to be relatively impermeable.

Groundwater was encountered during the supplemental field investigation in 2020 at borings FB-3 and FB-7 as noted in the Terracon Geotechnical Data Report in Part III, Attachment D5, Appendix D5-C . Groundwater level information is presented in the below table. A cross-section of the investigation area, including groundwater information is included with this report as Appendix E-3.



### TABLE 20 GROUNDWATER LEVELS AT BORINGS FB-3 AND FB-7

## 1.7 Records of Groundwater Level Measurements in Wells (330.63(e)(5)(D))

Five monitoring wells (MW) were installed outside the slurry wall, coupled with twin piezometer wells on the inside of the slurry wall on May 20, 1998. Due to the drought conditions at the time of installation, the wells were dry and could not be developed. Flooding in October of 1998 delayed monitoring further and badly damaged prior records at the landfill, as documented to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on January 27, 1999. The well on Line D (MW-D) was replaced on February 29, 2000. The Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan (GWSAP) was approved by the TNRCC on July 12, 2000 as a Class I Permit Modification to the Site Operation Plan (SOP).

The initial sampling event was conducted on August 4, 2000. Subsequent monitoring occurred annually through 2022, though some historic records appear to be lost or destroyed. Available information is provided in Table 21 below which presents historic water-level measurements from past annual groundwater monitoring events.



#### TABLE 21 HISTORIC GROUNDWATER MONITORING DATA AT THE BECK LANDFILL



# 1.8 Records of Groundwater Monitoring Data (330.63(e)(5)(E))

Available historical annual groundwater monitoring data from 2005 to 2022 for the Beck Landfill at each monitoring well is presented in the table in Part III, Attachment F (Groundwater Characterization Report), Appendix F-2 (Historical Groundwater Data).

# 1.9 Identification of Uppermost Aquifer (330.63(e)(5)(F))

The uppermost aquifer at the Beck Landfill site may have been the Leona Aquifer which is comprised of gravel and sand with lenses of caliche and silt of the Pleistocene Series Leona Formation. The identification of the Leona as the uppermost aquifer at the site is based on review of region groundwater reports published by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), surface geology maps and monitoring well logs. However, due to the similarity between the Holocene alluvial terrace deposits and the Leona Formation and the intervening Cibolo Creek, it is likely that the Holocene alluvial deposits contained perched water from infiltrated rainwater and early communication with the Cibolo Creek. The Beck Landfill as constructed has an impermeable slurry trench to prevent hydraulic connection with the Cibolo Creek and the Holocene alluvial deposits are removed.

The Leona Aquifer is not hydraulically connected to the deeper Edwards Aquifer due to the presence of two aquitards creating hydraulic separation. These aquitards consist of undivided Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl and Pecan Gap Chalk strata. The Edwards Aquifer would likely be considered the uppermost aquifer beneath Beck Landfill in the absence of the Leona Aquifer.

A review of historical groundwater elevation measurements taken from the landfill monitoring wells show that groundwater in the uppermost aquifer typically flows from the northwest to the southeast toward Cibolo Creek. The site-specific hydraulic conductivity of the uppermost aquifer has not been measured; therefore, the rate of groundwater flow cannot be calculated at this time.

# 1.10 Groundwater Certification Process for Arid Exemption (§330.63(e)(6))

Not applicable - Beck is not seeking an arid exemption for the landfill, therefore this section does not apply.

FIGURE E-1 SURFACE GEOLOGY

## FIGURE E-2 STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN

FIGURE E-3 REGIONAL CROSS SECTION

FIGURE E-4 QUATERNARY FAULT MAP

## FIGURE E-5 REGIONAL AQUIFERS

## FIGURE E-6 EDWARDS POTENTIOMETRIC MAP

FIGURE E-7 WATER WELLS WITHIN 1 MILE

## FIGURE E-8 SEISMIC IMPACT

FIGURE E-9 SEISMIC IMPACT (REGIONAL)

# APPENDIX E-1 LETTER TO TCEQ JANUARY 27, 1999

# APPENDIX E-2 TEXAS WATER WELL INFORMATION

# APPENDIX E-3 CROSS-SECTIONS