



# DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT

## *Finding*

Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center • 305 Research Drive, Athens, Georgia 30605-2795 • 706.369.5650 • Fax 706.369.5792 • www.negrdc.org

**TO:** Affected Local Governments and Other Interested Parties  
**FROM:** James R. Dove, Executive Director *JRD*  
**DATE:** November 12, 2008

The Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) has completed its review of the following Development of Regional Impact (DRI). The Northeast Georgia RDC reviewed the proposed project with regard to conflicts with regional plans, goals, and policies and the impacts it might have on the activities, plans, goals, and policies of other local jurisdictions and state, federal, and other agencies. The finding does not address whether the DRI is or is not in the best interest of the local government.

DRI ID Number: 1944  
Name of Proposed Project: Biotran Transfer Station  
Submitting Local Government: Newton County

**Finding:** After review of information submitted by the host government and comments received from affected agencies, the Northeast Georgia RDC finds that the development is in the best interest of the Region and therefore the State.

### Additional Comments:

#### **Should the project be pursued, the following recommendations are made:**

- Additional security measures beyond the minimum requirements may be necessary to ensure that all medical waste is stored in a manner that affords protection from theft, vandalism, and inadvertent human or animal exposure.
- Every effort must be made to comply with all local, state, and federal environmental regulations throughout the development of the project to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding areas.



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## Request for Comments

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Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center : 305 Research Drive, Athens, Georgia 30605-2795 : 706.369.5650 :  
Fax 706.369.5792 : [www.negplanning.org](http://www.negplanning.org)

DRI Number:	DRI #1944 Biotran Transfer Station, Newton County
Name of commenting organization:	Athens-Clarke County Unified Government
Department:	Planning Department
Address:	120 W. Dougherty Street
Telephone:	706.613.3515
Email address:	<a href="mailto:leahstewart@co.clarke.ga.us">leahstewart@co.clarke.ga.us</a>
Date:	October 23, 2008

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October 23, 2008

Mr. Moneyhun,

In general, the proposed Waste Handling Facility in the City of Oxford, Newton County (Project ID DRI-1944), as proposed, would not have a measurable impact on Athens-Clarke County's transportation infrastructure, solid waste management services, natural or historic resources, or other community facilities or services.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Brad Griffin, Planning Director, or myself at (706) 613-3515.

Thanks,

Leah Graham Stewart  
ACC Long Range Planner



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## Request for Comments

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Fax 706.369.5792 : [www.negplanning.org](http://www.negplanning.org)

DRI Number:	DRI #1944 Biotran Transfer Station, Newton County
Name of commenting organization:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Department:	Historic Preservation Division
Address:	34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600
Telephone:	404-651-6452
Email address:	<a href="mailto:Melina.Vaquez@dnr.state.ga.us">Melina.Vaquez@dnr.state.ga.us</a>
Date:	November 06, 2008

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The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the information submitted concerning the proposed project in Newton County, Georgia. Our comments are offered to assist the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center in assessing the potential impacts of the proposed project as it pertains to the Georgia Planning Act.

Regarding historic structures that may be located in the area, we recommend a survey be conducted by a qualified historian to identify historic structures located within the project's area of potential effects.

Regarding archaeological resources, due to the size and topographic setting of the subject property, we recommend that an intensive (Phase I) archaeological survey be conducted by a qualified archaeologist.

We offer these comments now as technical assistance; however HPD looks forward to reviewing this project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act if at some stage in the development federal funding, permitting or licensing becomes required, or under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) if state funds are utilized.

If we may be of further assistance, or for more information on compliance requirements for Section 106 or GEPA, please contact Michelle Volkema at (404) 651-6546.

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Wildlife Resources Division

Nongame Conservation Section  
2065 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4743  
(770) 918 6411

October 24, 2008

Jim Moneyhun  
Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center  
305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605-2795

**Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near DRI # 1944 Biotran Transfer Station, Newton County, Georgia**

Dear Mr. Moneyhun:

This is in response to your request of October 20, 2008. According to our records, within a three-mile radius of the project site (-83.88344, 33.61946; NAD27), there are the following Natural Heritage Database occurrences:

Greenspace [Newton County] approx. 2.0 mi. NW of site  
Greenspace [Newton County] approx. 2.5 mi. NW of site  
Turner Lake [Newton County Land Trust] approx. 1.0 mi. S of site

\* Entries above preceded by "US" indicates species with federal status (Protected, Candidate or Partial Status). Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected; "GA" indicates Georgia protected species.

### **Recommendations:**

We have no records of high priority species or habitats within the project area. Because this site has been previously disturbed, the project is not likely to negatively impact rare species or habitats. We are concerned about stream habitats that could be impacted by construction activities. In order to protect aquatic habitats and water quality, we recommend that all machinery be kept out of creeks during construction. We urge you to use stringent erosion control practices during construction activities. Further, we strongly advocate leaving vegetation intact within 100 feet of creeks, which will reduce inputs of sediments, assist with maintaining riverbank integrity, and provide shade and habitat for aquatic species. We realize that some trees may have to be removed, but recommend that shrubs and ground vegetation be left in place.

### **Data Available on the Nongame Conservation Section Website**

By visiting the Nongame Conservation Section Website you can view the highest priority species and natural community information by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Information page at: <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=89>

An ESRI shape file of our highest priority species and natural community data by quarter quad and county is also available. It can be downloaded from:

<http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/assets/documents/gnhp/gnhpds.zip>

**Disclaimer:**

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Nongame Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Nongame Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.**

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com>) or by contacting our office. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Katrina Morris  
Environmental Review Coordinator