



Board of County Commissioners Executive Office

110 N. Apopka Ave., New Courthouse, Inverness, Florida 34450
(352) 341-6560 • Fax (352) 341-6584 • Website: www.citrusbocc.com

Our Mission:

To manage growth and foster prosperity by prioritizing protection of environmental assets, development and maintenance of infrastructure, and the health, safety, and well-being of our citizens.

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Alexis A. Lambert, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, M.S. 49
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Concerns and Opposition Regarding Proposed Heart of Florida Landfill Leachate Injection Well in Sumter County

Dear Secretary Lambert,

On behalf of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, we respectfully submit our concerns and opposition to the permitting of a proposed deep injection leachate well associated with the Heart of Florida Landfill in Sumter County.

The proposed project introduces significant uncertainty regarding subsurface conditions, specifically karst geology, and the associated potential for contaminant migration. There remains limited data on deep groundwater flow patterns in the region, including the direction, rate, and ultimate destination of injected materials. The absence of this information raises serious concerns about the ability to ensure long-term containment of leachate and protection of the regional groundwater supply.

Groundwater is the source for all public drinking water systems within Citrus County, and protection of water quality is a significant concern. Additionally, there are three first order magnitude springs within Citrus County that are fed by groundwater resources. These sensitive environmental systems are contained within Basin Management Action Plan areas where significant efforts are ongoing to reduce pollutant loading. Permitting a potential pollutant source in close proximity to these systems poses additional significant concerns.

Importantly, the material proposed for injection is not simply wastewater, but landfill leachate, which can contain organic contaminants, heavy metals, and other potentially toxic components. This distinction is critical, as the potential risks associated with leachate migration differ significantly from those associated with more conventional wastewater streams.

Historical examples have shown that failures in injection systems can result in contamination of groundwater resources, with long-term remediation efforts spanning decades. The scale of the proposed operation amplifies the potential consequences of system failure or migration. Even if the probability of failure is low, the magnitude of impact in the event of contamination would be substantial and potentially irreversible.



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The protection of Florida's groundwater resources is of paramount importance. In fact, given the serious concern for contamination presented by landfill leachate, Citrus County has made significant investment to prevent its proliferation through the construction of the state-of-the-art Landfill Cell 4A at the Citrus County Landfill. Furthermore, there are concerns that landfill leachate from other parts of Florida, in addition to the Heart of Florida Landfill leachate, is planned to be imported and injected into this proposed deep injection well if permitted. If permitted, this would further add to the volume of contaminated leachate to be injected and would continue to represent actions that are counterproductive to the protection of the Florida Aquifer.

Ultimately, decisions of this magnitude should be guided by the precautionary principle, particularly where uncertainty exists and potential impacts are irreversible. Given these considerations as well as the numerous concerns outlined in this letter, we respectfully request that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection deny approval of the proposed deep injection leachate well.

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of all residents of Citrus County and the surrounding region, appreciate your consideration of these concerns and respectfully request that this letter be entered into the official record for this project.

Sincerely,

Diana Finegan
Chairman, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners

A copy of this letter has also been directed to:

- Adam Blalock – FDEP Deputy Secretary of Ecosystems Restoration
- John Truitt – FDEP Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs
- FDEP – Aquifer Protection Program – Underground Injection Control
- FDEP Southwest District Office