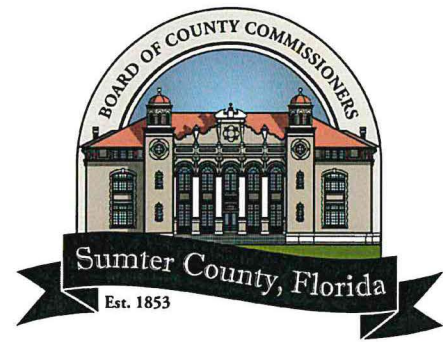


# ***Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida***

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Website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov>



April 2, 2026

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

RE: Heart of Florida Landfill's Planned Treated Leachate Disposal Injection Well Located in the City of Bushnell

Dear Secretary Lambert,

The Sumter County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has primacy regarding the issuance of injection well permitting for treated wastewater disposal pursuant to Florida Statutes § 381.0065 and the Florida Administrative Code Chapter 62-528. We recognize also that the law and rules preempt local decisions in the matter of the review, approval, and regulatory oversight of the current exploratory well and its future transition to a treated leachate injection well for the property owner.

There is a lack of independent fact-based information concerning the exploratory well and planned conversion for operation that created an environment of opposition and distrust in local government due to the preemption. Based on this environment, FDEP is the only entity capable of addressing the concerns of the residents and those that govern both the City of Bushnell and Sumter County. We are relying on the competency and dedication of your team to confirm the planned disposal use of treated leachate from this private property will not endanger the public water supply at any point during its operation. The reassurance requested includes an educational session on the rigors of the design, construction, and monitoring as well as the planned intervention in the event of a permit violation of the operational injection well.

We would be happy to host the public education forum for your regulatory team to provide this education and address questions posed by those in attendance.

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(352) 569-6600  
215 East McCollum Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513


County Attorney  
The Hogan Law Firm  
Post Office Box 485  
Brooksville, Florida 34605

If there is an established standard for the treatment of the leachate required before disposal via the injection well, it would be helpful to understand how it compares to the reuse standards for domestic wastewater treatment plants.

The education obtained thus far includes the attached presentation provided by the consultant of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

We have a facility that can accommodate 400 participants and be live-streamed and can offer the dates of June 2 or June 16, 2026, for this education session so that it is also in advance of the application to convert the exploration injection well to the treated leachate disposal inject well.

We look forward to your timely response.



Donald Wiley, Chairman

cc: Honorable Sumter County Commissioners  
Honorable City of Bushnell Mayor and Councilmembers  
Mr. Mike Eastburn, City Manager  
Ms. Morgan Wilson, Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Elijah Vandergriff, Heart of Florida Landfill