

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Municipal Solid Waste Management Program  
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## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

### Established Standards for Ground-Water Detection Monitoring

Legal Authority: Rules of Solid Waste Management  
Chapter 391-3-4-.07(3) (v) and 391-3-4-.12(3)

Purpose: Owners and/or operators of landfills must conduct groundwater monitoring. The groundwater monitoring data must be evaluated by the owner and/or operator to determine if “established standards” have been exceeded. All exceedances of “established standards” must be promptly reported to the Division. Monitoring reports for groundwater must be accompanied by a statement certifying, for those constituents which have established standards, that “established standards” have been complied with or certifying non-compliance.

Guidance: In the Detection Monitoring Phase, the established standard for analytical constituents in Appendix I are the following:

- the primary standards that are enforceable as maximum contaminant levels (MCL’s) defined in the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended in 1986, et seq., and the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Revised July 1992.
- the background level of the constituent when a constituent’s background level is found higher than the MCL value.
- where no MCL exists for a constituent, the established standard will be derived from a statistical analysis performed in accordance with Rule 391-3-4.14(20). The number of samples needed to establish a statistical base must be consistent with Rule 391-3-4.14(18) for appropriate statistical methods. If a statistically significant increase (SSI) above background occurs, the established standard for the constituent has been exceeded.

