

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE INSPECTED

Zane Surrette  
SWANA Fall Conference  
October 14, 2021

## The Purpose

- To determine facility compliance in regards to:
  - regulations,
  - permit conditions,
  - other requirement(s)

## The Inspector



- ▣ One or more MDEQ inspectors may be present (very rarely EPA may be present)
- ▣ Regional office or main office personnel
- ▣ Inspectors should present identification and/or identify themselves as MDEQ employees
- ▣ Inspectors should follow facility safety protocol

## The Inspection

- ▣ May be multimedia
  - Solid Waste
  - Water
  - Air
  - Hazardous Waste
- ▣ Random and unannounced
- ▣ Conducted during normal business hours

## Pre-Inspection

- ▣ An initial file review will usually be conducted prior to the onsite inspection
- ▣ Offsite information may be gathered prior to onsite inspection such as odor, litter issues, storm water run-off, etc.
- ▣ A pre-inspection meeting may be held with onsite personnel to discuss the inspection
- ▣ Generally, specific records will be requested during the pre-inspection meeting for review upon conclusion of the site inspection

## During The Inspection

- ▣ Appropriate site personnel are encouraged to be present during the inspection and may be asked pertinent questions
- ▣ General information will be gathered such as personnel involved, date, time, weather, etc.
- ▣ Compliance **AND** noncompliance are noted
- ▣ Photos will be taken to document the above

## During The Inspection

- All aspects of the operation may be inspected including:
  - Active disposal areas
  - Closed areas
  - Storm water conveyances, ponds and outfalls
  - Leachate conveyance, collection, and storage areas
  - Landfill gas and methane monitoring systems
  - Facility buffers

## The Inspection

- In some instances, samples may be collected
- A records review may be conducted at the conclusion of the site inspection
- Reminder – only the facts are gathered during an inspection

## Post Inspection

- Post-inspection meeting
  - Summary of inspection will be provided
  - Questions may be asked regarding observations of the inspector
  - Generally, a determination of violations will NOT be given
- A final report of the inspection will be completed

## Reminder

- Mississippi Code § 25-61-1 “Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983” states that it is the policy of the Mississippi Legislature that public records must be available for inspection by any person unless otherwise provided. MDEQ has and will do everything reasonable to fulfill this policy.
- Records requests may be submitted via mail, phone, or online portal.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 2261  
Jackson, MS 39225

Public Records Request telephone: (601) 961-5758

## Questions?

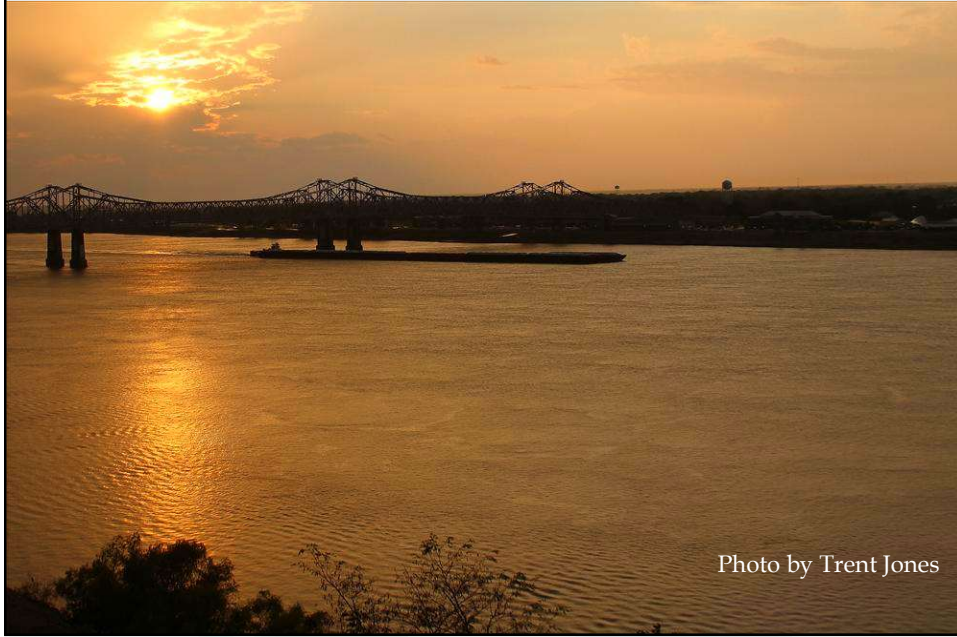


Photo by Trent Jones