



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

Large Environmental Site Investigations: Georgia Environmental Protection Division Video Illustrating Use of Drones

07/14/2026

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division ("GEPD") issued a July 2nd news release discussing the use of drones:

... to complete large site investigations more efficiently and protect its waterways.

The news release features a video of a certified drone pilot who uses the craft to assist with inspections of sites greater than 400 acres.

The use of a drone to assess a large site is stated to potentially reduce staff time from a day on foot to 30 minutes by drone.

A number of state agencies (including Arkansas) have utilized drones for various purposes for a number of years. For example, an Environmental Council of the States report notes that state environmental agencies have used drones to undertake activities such as:

- Surveillance
- Enforcement
- Permit Support Documentation
- Waste and Landfill Inspections
- Illegal Dumping of Chemicals, Oils or Waste Tires
- General Emergency Response Functions Involving Facility Discharges, Trail Derailments, Truck Accidents, and Oil Spills
- Investigation of Unusual Events

The same report indicates agencies use drone because of their ability to:

- Quickly obtain data
- More effectively respond to emergencies
- Ensure worker safety
- Improve environmental results

A link to the GEPD video can be found [here](#).