

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The data reviewed here were drawn from current and historic documents that included the renewal permit application, permits currently in effect (federal, state, regional, and local), aerial photographs, regulatory and agency reports, variances and modifications, and news articles. Additional information was obtained through telephone and office interviews conducted with representatives of Hamilton County government, Nutrien–White Springs, and regional, state, and federal agencies. In addition, we conducted two site visits at Nutrien–White Springs.

Specifically, the data set consisted of:

- Review of documents and articles:
 - Nutrien–White Springs’s Annual Reports and Special Permit applications submitted over the previous five years (2018 through 2022).
 - Federal, state, regional, and local records and files regarding various permits and correspondence.
 - Documents and news articles related to Nutrien–White Springs retrieved via Internet research.
- Observations from site visits:
 - LHC staff accompanied FDEP Mining and Mitigation Program staff (Marisa Rhian, Program Administrator, and Evan Martin, Environmental Specialist III) and Don Dahlgren, Senior Engineer, Nutrien, during the 2022 Third Quarter Field Inspection at Nutrien–White Springs - White Springs.
 - LHC staff visited Nutrien–White Springs (Don Dahlgren, Senior Engineer) to review permit issues and tour site.
- Interviews at offices:
 - Commissioner Travis Erixton, District 4, Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Louie Goodin, County Coordinator, and Private citizen, and Randy Ogburn, former County Commissioner of District #4.
 - Hamilton County Special Counsel for Mine Regulation, Scott Shirley in Tallahassee, FL, regarding local concerns and issues at Nutrien–White Springs.
 - Nutrien–White Springs Representative Don Dahlgren, Senior Engineer, Mine Planning.
 - Representatives from private landowners within mining boundary:
 - King Baker Holdings, LLC
 - White Springs Planation, LLC