

COMPOST OPERATION STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Gates Mill County Park – Raleigh, NC

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 29, 2010

11:00 PM POT LUCK LUNCH

12:30 PM WELCOME: David Halley - Facilitator

12:40 PM REVIEW OF LAST MEETING AND PREVIEW OF MEETING

1:00 PM SHARE LETTER SENT TO DWQ DIRECTOR SUPPORTING NEW NON-DISCHARGE PROCESS
WASTEWATER OPTIONS: Frank Franciosi

Frank reviewed letter sent Coleen Sullins, Director of NCDENR Division of Water Quality, in support of a set of possible new non-discharge options for the compost permitting process. Letter was sent on September 27th, 2010. Copy of letter is on portal.

1:20 PM UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ALTERNATIVE NON-DISCHARGE OFF-SITE PERMITTING
OPTIONS: John Risgaard

John Risgaard had met with Coleen prior to the meeting and reviewed the three alternatives presented to her in his memo. See a copy of that August 13th memo on portal. Of the three alternatives presented, Ms. Sullins was most interested in pursuing Alternative 2, which would allow reclassification of some wastewaters as residuals. This would allow for land application of wastes to better recognize their potential for beneficial reuse, while still providing protection to the environment and human health. This allowance would only be appropriate for wastes known to have characteristics similar to properly treated residuals, and that they meet the quality and operational requirements for land application of residuals (either Class A or B). John emphasized that this would only be an option for only non-dedicated sites, and that dedicated sites or fixed irrigations sites would not be sites for off-site discharges. Coleen asked John to put together a more detailed proposal for this option. A DWQ or APS policy may need to be developed to clarify and allow this option. The hope is that they can make the

necessary changes within the existing regulatory framework. But, this alternative may eventually require a rule change.

1:40 PM *REVISED OFF-SITE NON-DISCHARGE PROCESS WASTEWATER OPTIONS PROPOSALS:*

#5A - Jon Risgaard

John presented a revised proposal for off-site non-discharge process wastewater options. This proposal included supporting alternatives proposed in his memo to Ms. Sullins. Following discussion, with minor edits to the original proposal, the following proposal received full support of Stakeholders Group:

Proposed New Component (#5 (alternate): Current off-site non-discharge process wastewater management options that will be permitted):

For facilities where the process water generated as part of the compost process is not contained and managed within the DWM permitted site, the water would be called Compost Process Wastewater and proper disposal or reuse of the process wastewater would require a permit issued by DWQ. Current permitted alternatives available for the disposal or reuse of the wastewater via a non-discharge or land application system are as follows:

- Pump and Haul Systems under 15A NCAC 2T .0200
- Spray Irrigation Systems under 15A NCAC 2T .0500
- High Rate Infiltration Systems under 15A NCAC 2T .0700
- Reclaimed Water Systems under 15A NCAC 2T .0900

Under the current regulations, all industrial waste stream facilities, seeking one of the above listed non-discharge permit other than a Pump and Haul Systems must conduct a hydrogeologic investigation. The hydrogeologic investigation and modeling must support that the recommended application rates and wastewater effluent concentrations will not result in contravention of groundwater standards. The stakeholders feel that the mandatory hydrogeologic evaluation is unlikely to provide a sufficient increase in environmental protection. The need to manage the liquid is seasonal.

Stakeholders support DWQ efforts to investigate possible options within the existing regulatory framework that would allow for the permitting non-discharge disposal options without requiring the hydrogeologic investigation. The Stakeholders encourage DWQ to investigate the possibility to allow for the beneficial reuse of the process wastewater to better utilize the nutrient content of the water. Based on initial feedback, permitting within the Residual Management Program (15 A NCAC 02T .1100) may be a good fit and will be considered.

If DWQ efforts are unsuccessful in determining a path within the existing regulatory framework, the stakeholder group supports further investigation of existing General Statutes and Administrative Code requirements. The investigation will identify modifications that would appropriately match the permitting requirements with the environmental risk from the land application of composting process wastewater.

Why we support this new component:

- It gives the industry a new cost effective option.
- Reduces or eliminates the need for an expensive hydrogeologic evaluation at non-dedicated sites.
- It is an environmentally sound solution.
- This component allows for DWQ to increase flexibility within the existing permitting program with no new rule changes.

Stakeholder Group Consensus: Yes.

2:00 PM *REVISED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS PROPOSAL: #17A - Frank Franciosi*

Frank presented a new proposal for the training and certification of compost operators. This proposal was more general than previous proposal but outlined the next steps in pursuing this option. The details of the proposal are to be developed by a separate committee made up of stakeholders.

Following review and edits to the proposal, the following proposal received full support of the Stakeholder's Group:

Proposed New Component (#17: Training and Certification of Operators):

Develop a training program that would require training and certification of Compost Operators for DWM and DWQ residual compost facilities by January 1, 2013.

Notes:

- Currently there are no requirements for trained and or certified Operators at NC Composting Facilities
- DWM and DWQ have training and certification requirements in place for other solid waste and waste water treatment facilities
- None of these existing programs cover the subject of Compost Production in detail
- The NC Composting Council (NCCC) a State Chapter of the US Composting Council has developed a 40 hour training course that covers Compost Production in detail
- The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has a 24 hour course covering the basics of the composting process
- An independent Committee of the following minimum entities will meet and form a plan for training and certification:
 - NC Composting Council
 - NC SWANA
 - NC DENR-DWM
 - NC DENR-DWQ
 - NC AWWA-WEA
 - NC Department of Agriculture- Division of Vet

Any individual or organization wishing to be involved

- The Committee will work on developing the following items:
 - Course curriculum
 - Third party course review
 - Structure of fees and renewals
 - Continuing education credit structure
 - Timeline for implementation
 - And additional items as required.
- The first organizational meeting will be held by NCCC (meeting convener) by January 2011

Why we support this change:

- Helps to reduce potential safety issues.
- Helps to improve site management issues including site water management.
- Improves overall operations and efficiency.
- Helps to improve professionalism of industry and facility.
- Will help to improve product quality
- Creates a venue to discuss new changes to the compost permitting process.

Stakeholder Group Consensus: Yes.

2:30 PM *RANKING THE PROPOSALS - WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROPOSALS WE HAVE DEVELOPED? - David Halley*

David led the discussion on trying to rank the nineteen different proposals in terms of importance. Following group discussion it was decided that only the proposals that were work products or “work to be done” should be ranked. Following review of each proposal the following proposals were determined to be work products or “work to be done” proposals:

Proposed New Component (#3: Permit process flow/clarity of administrative duties):

Brief Summary: A graphic representations (flow charts) of the permitting processes applicable to the composting industry will be developed by NCDENR and made widely available to the industry.

Proposed New Component (#5 (alternate): Current off-site non-discharge process wastewater management options that will be permitted):

Brief Summary: List current off-site non-discharge process wastewater management options that will be permitted, plus it recommends a set of new lower cost options.

Proposed New Component (#10: General Permits for LT1 and LT2):

Brief Summary: Recommends that a new General Permit be developed and submitted for approval to EPA for Large Type 1 and Large Type 2 compost facilities. Once approved these facilities would apply for a General Permit. These permits would cover both Stormwater and Wastewater discharge requirements.

Proposed New Component (#12 (alternate): Notification Sites/Small Type 1's):

Brief Summary: Recommends that Small Type 1 Facilities will no longer be required to notify the Solid Waste Section prior to operation and on an annual basis. The Small Type I facilities will not be required to have a DWM or DWQ permit for operation. The Solid Waste Section will propose to the Public Health Commission that the current rule ((15A NCAC 13B .1402(g)(3)) that requires these facilities to submit annual notifications be repealed allowing staff additional time for permitting and compliance activities for the major facility types.

If Proposal #12a is does not occur then our fall back proposal is:

Proposed New Component (#12: Notification Sites/Small Type 1's):

Brief Summary: Recommends that we continue to have Small Type 1 Facilities fall under the category of “notification sites” and not require them to have a DWM or DWQ permit for operation. We would not recommend the issuing of a general permit for Small Type 1 facilities. An MOU between DWM and DWQ on “notification sites” is recommended to help accomplish this new component to meet federal guidelines.

Proposed New Component (#14: DWQ will develop a list of “approved” Stormwater BMP's with the target completion date of January 1, 2011.):

Brief Summary: This new component would provide a list of traditional and non-traditional stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) that could be used for Large Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, Type 4, and DWQ Residual Compost facilities.

Proposed New Component (#15: Education and Guidance on how to reduce volume):

Brief Summary: DWQ will establish baseline recommendations for compost facilities on how to eliminate the potential for process water discharges to the maximum extent possible (including segregation of stormwater flows). Similar requirements may be applied to some stormwater discharges.

Proposed New Component (#17 (alternate): Training and Certification of Operators):

Brief Summary: Recommends developing a new component that would require training and certification of Compost Operators for DWM and DWQ residual compost facilities by January 1, 2013.

Proposed New Component (#18: General Permit Option for Small Type 2 and Small Type 3 Facilities):

Brief Summary: Recommends that Small Type 2 and Small Type 3 facilities that have a discharge and do not qualify for No Exposure Certification would be eligible for coverage under the same new General Permit for Large Type 1 and Large Type 2 compost facilities that would be proposed and submitted for approval to EPA. Once approved, any Small Type 2 and Small Type 3 facilities that qualify would apply for the General Permit. This permit would cover both Stormwater and Wastewater discharge requirements.

David asked each participant to vote on the top three priorities from this list of “work to done” proposals. A couple of proposals were combined due to similarities in content. The voting and ranking was as follows:

#	Proposal Description	Votes	Ranking
3	Develop permit process flow chart/clarity of administrative duties	12	1 st
5	Current off-site non-discharge options that will be permitted, plus new set of lower cost options	11	2 nd
10 & 18	Create General Permits for LT1 and LT2, and sT2 and sT3 Facilities	10	3 rd (tie)
14	DWQ will develop a list of “approved” stormwater BMP’s with the target completion date of January 1, 2011	10	3 rd (tie)
17	Develop Training and Certification of Compost Operators	4	4 th
12 & 12A	Notification Sites/Small Type 1’s	3	5 th
15	Education and Guidance on how to reduce volume <u>Note:</u> Agreed to incorporate this proposal in with #17 and include it as part of the training.	1	6 th

3:00 PM *HAVE WE COMPLETED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO IN SESSION LAW 2009-322/HOUSE BILL 1100? - Ken Pickle*

Ken reviewed the session law and made a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed whether we had completed what had been asked for us to do in the session law. A copy of Ken’s presentation is on the portal.

3:30 PM

THANK YOU PRESENTATIONS/REFLECTION ON PROCESS

Group was given “green card” to sign and put in picture frame with picture of group as a thank you for participating in process. Extras were made for those that could not attend. A special thanks and presentation were made to Ken Pickle, Frank Franciosi, Scott Mouw, and Michael Scott for all their hard work on the Steering Committee. Additional thanks to Monitoring Steering Committee, headed by Joe Hack, for their work on developing a monitoring matrix and proposal.

3:45 PM

NEXT STEPS/CLOSING

This is last formal meeting of the Compost Operation Stakeholder Advisory Group. The group was asked to provide a list of tasks that needed be completed to ensure that the work of this group was carried forward. The list generated was as follows:

- Notify Public Officials of the new changes recommended to compost facilities. Jeri to write letter to League of Municipalities summarizing work of group.
- NCCC and SWANA to meet to form a Compost Users Group to help with tracking follow-up of work products and maintain the momentum of the group.
- Organize a table discussion at the next Fall Conference
- Update the portal with updated DWQ reports #1 and #2
- Produce a final report of this process and post it on the portal
- Create a listserv for further discussions and input.
- Create a press release/ mailing informing public of work of group
- Ken Pickle to keep group updated on his progress to complete work outlined in the proposals.

4:15 PM DEPART

Minutes compiled and submitted by:

David Halley, True North Organizational Development Services