

Site Permitting for Composting Facilities

Outline (based on participant input at 5/19 stakeholder meeting)

Regulatory infrastructure

Jurisdiction – Who will *be involved and how*

Agency – ANR, AAFM;

SWD

Municipality

Act 250

One permit – can be issued by either ANR or AAFM

Registration only – can be made through ANR or AAFM

Permitting

Regulatory structure

goals based; risk/science based

minimal prescriptive

emphasis on 'big picture' – environmental protection

Expedited process for 'gold star' sites (meet A250 requirements)

Definitions

Compost as nutrient management, not waste

Include composting in definition of farm

Remove conflicting definitions between agencies

Classification of feedstocks

Types of composting systems

Site characteristics

Risks – types/level based on feedstock

Proprietary information

Tiers –

basis for:

feedstocks (or no – Phil's suggestion)

– include biosolids (fr. ANR)

volume

site characteristics

output thresholds (testing)

record-keeping

farm / not a farm

categories

Exempt

OTHER LEVELS – conditionally exempt, registration, notification, permit-by-rule, etc.

R & D sites – temporary permit status

Full Certification

Pre-existing sites

Complies with SWIP – sign off letter?

Interface with other regulating bodies, eg. Ag, local zoning

Site evaluation – (incl Act 250 criteria)

- Archeological

- Size

- Proximity to water, water table

- Proximity to neighbors

- Soils

- Water - availability for site management

- Traffic

- Aesthetics/landscaping

- Neighbor notification

- Design

- Local zoning

- Prohibited areas – (fr. ANR)

- Distance from water supply – (fr. ANR)

- Slope – (fr. ANR)

Design & Operating Standards

ACPs (accepted composting practices) – WHAT TO INCLUDE

Management plan – WHAT TO INCLUDE

Have AAFM write AAP for exempt farm facilities

Insurance – liability, site cleanup, other?

Water quality – water concerns –

- Stormwater, leachate, runoff, surface, ground

Air quality

- Odor, particulate, VOCs

Input/ output record keeping – varies with tier – WHAT TO INCLUDE

Testing – varies with tier – WHAT TO INCLUDE

Bagging facility

Reporting

Appeals process

Variances

- provision for alternate ‘like’ feedstock

- provision for new technologies

Permit Revision

Fees – low

Penalties – see ‘Enforcement’

Permitting Process Review – periodic, includes stakeholders, advisory board

Quality Assurance

Feedstocks

Testing results

Heavy metals

Pathogens

NPK

Material contaminants

Record keeping

Labeling

Similar to fertilizer

Similar to livestock feed

Depending on whether direct or indirect sale

End use Seal of Approval for X

Enforcement

Ruling procedure

Expensive to act first without getting permission–hit violators hard (NOT fr. ANR)

Make 'conditions' penalties high (fr. ANR)

Fine for environmental damage

Timely rulings

Appeals process

Permitting and Compliance Assistance

Ombuds office

Process steps – Permitting flow chart

PR – info handouts

Web resources for composters and communities

FAQs

Data sharing

Encourage innovation and creativity

Bridging between composting and energy production

Technical assistance

Who provides

What needed

Community education

What can state support, how to partner

Who (generators & processors.....all of us) – fr. ANR

When

How

Issues to address:

- Redistribution of nutrients

- Carbon cycle

- Carbon hierarchy

- State and local goals

- Modeling of impact – traffic, noise, leachate, compare to farm operation

- Benefits