

# Public Notice: Request for Comments

## Proposed Registration Permit for Laurelwood Farm Composting Facility

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to make written comments on this proposed registration permit issuance

### Notice issued:

Monday, July 26, 2010

### Written comments due:

5 p.m., Monday, August 30, 2010

### Permit expiration:

This permit will expire September 30, 2020.

### Who is the applicant?

Laurelwood Farm  
34154 HWY 26  
Seaside, OR 97138

### Where is the facility located?

34154 HWY 26  
Seaside, OR 97138  
Clatsop County

### Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

### Where can I send my comments?

Laurelwood Farm comments  
c/o Holly Pence  
Solid Waste Permit Coordinator  
DEQ Northwest Region  
2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201  
Fax: (503) 229-6945  
E-mail: [Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us)

### Where can I get technical information?

Amanda Romero, Compliance Specialist  
(503) 229-5478 or Toll Free: (800) 452-4011  
DEQ Northwest Region  
2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201  
Fax: (503) 229-6945  
E-mail: [Romero.Amanda@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Romero.Amanda@deq.state.or.us)

### Where can I get background information?

Information about this project is viewable online by clicking these links:

[Permit Evaluation Report](#)  
[Draft Permit](#)

You may also review file copies of the draft permit and related documents at the Northwest Region DEQ office in Portland. For a review appointment,

contact Holly Pence at 503-229-5353 or 800-452-4911 (toll free in Oregon) or e-mail [Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us)

### What will Laurelwood Farm do that may affect land quality?

The facility produces about 600 tons a year of compost from feedstocks consisting of yard and landscaping debris. Laurelwood Farm accepts feedstock materials from local landscaping companies and the public.

### What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the wastes handled by Laurelwood Farm?

If not conducted in a proper manner or conducted at an inappropriate location, composting can present potential environmental problems. Runoff from composting can pollute surface and ground water. Poorly managed composting can also produce nuisance odors or harbor rodents and insect pests.

### DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 459 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Divisions 93 and 96 give DEQ the authority to regulate solid waste facilities and issue permits.

### How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?

Various federal and state environmental regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of wastes disposed or handled, and the location of the facility. The permit must address all applicable regulations, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

Under current Oregon law, there are two types of composting facility permit:



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Northwest Region Office Solid Waste

2020 SW 4th Ave, Ste 400  
Portland OR 97201

Phone: (503) 229-5353  
(800) 452-4011

Fax: (503) 229-6945

Contact: Holly Pence

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[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

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By: Holly Pence

- *Registration permits* govern the operations of facilities that pose low environmental risk.
- *Composting permits* are assigned to facilities that offer a higher degree of potential environmental risk. Such permits include additional requirements for management practices that help avoid harm to human health or the environment. DEQ assigns risk levels based on a technical screening process.

**Compliance history:**

The Laurelwood Farm Composting Facility has been regularly inspected with no compliance issues. No odor complaints have been recorded in ten years of operation.

**What other DEQ permits are required?**

The facility currently operates under an existing DEQ composting permit (SWDP #1210). This permit is administratively expired, but remains in effect until final action is taken on a new permit.

The facility will continue to operate under its NPDES 1200-Z stormwater permit. The facility must not cause a violation of in-stream water quality standards as established in state environmental law.

**What activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?**

The site is surrounded by farms and woodlands. The property is bordered on the south by Volmer Creek (about 400 feet from the operations building.) The Necanicum River is about 1000 feet

to the east. There are a handful of residences within one quarter-mile.

**What happens next?**

DEQ will schedule a public hearing if one is requested by 10 or more people, or by an authorized person representing an organization of at least 10 people. An additional public notice will be published to advertise the public hearing.

After the close of the comment period, DEQ will consider and provide responses to all comments received.

DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed permit, but can only do so in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ. Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if the facility meets all legal requirements, DEQ will issue the permit.

**Accessibility information:**

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with special language needs or disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or other format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach at (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us). TTY users, please call 7-1-1 for assistance.