

Public Notice: Request for Comments

Proposed Issuance of a Solid Waste Composting Facility Registration Permit for Knott Landfill Compost Facility in Bend, Deschutes County



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Land Quality
Eastern Region
Solid Waste Program:
Bend**

475 NE Bellevue Dr.,
Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: (541) 633-2007
(866) 863-6668
Fax: (541) 388-8283
Contact: Susan Christensen
Email:
christensen.susan@deq.state.or.us

Website:
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

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Notice Issued: 9/2/2010
By: Liz Clark

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on a Proposed Compost Facility Registration Permit issuance.

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. One way DEQ does this is to require permits for certain activities, such as composting. DEQ issues permits to regulate the type and amount of solid waste collected and produced at a regulated facility.

Notice issued: September 2, 2010.

Comments due: 5 p.m., October 4, 2010.

Where can I send my comments or get technical information?

Susan Christensen
Natural Resource Specialist
475 NE Bellevue Drive – Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 633-2007 or Toll Free: 866-863-6668
Fax Number: 541-388-8283
Email: Susan.Christensen

Where can I get background information?

You can review electronic versions of the draft permit and review report by clicking on the links below:

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

You can also review the draft permit and related documents at the DEQ Bend Office:

475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701

or at Deschutes County:

Department of Solid Waste
61050 SE 27th St.
Bend, OR 97702

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to issue a new Solid Waste Composting Facility Registration Permit for the Knott Landfill Compost Facility which is owned by Deschutes County and currently operated by Deschutes Recycling, LLC under contract with the county.

The current composting facility at the Knott Landfill began operation in 1999 under a DEQ Solid Waste General Composting Permit. In September, 2009, new DEQ rules required new and existing compost facilities to submit information to DEQ for an environmental and human health risk assessment in order to determine the type of permitting needed for their operations under these new rules

The DEQ risk assessment determined that the current composting facility, along with the proposed addition of a pilot food-waste composting component was low-risk, and could operate under a Registration Permit.

DEQ is inviting public comment on this proposed permitting action. During the comment period the public is invited to make comments related to specific conditions within the proposed permit.

Registration Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a Solid Waste permit to renew that permit every 10 years. Upon issuance, this Registration Permit would be effective for 10 years, expiring on October 1, 2020.

Who is the applicant?

Deschutes County
Department of Solid Waste

Where is the facility located?

Knott Landfill
61050 SE 27th Street
Bend, OR 97702
Deschutes County

Who might have an interest?

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

What does the Compost Facility do, or propose to do, that can affect land quality?

Composting is a managed biological process through which organic materials such as yard debris, land clearing debris, straw, manure, and food waste are converted into a more homogeneous, fine-particle material called compost. If not conducted in a proper manner or conducted at an improper location, composting can present potential environmental impacts such as surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, dust and odors.

What legal requirements apply?

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 459.205 requires a DEQ permit for most solid waste disposal sites.

ORS 459.245 authorizes the Department to issue solid waste disposal site permits.

Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, Divisions 93-97, provides further clarification of permit content and issuance requirements.

How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of solid waste managed or disposed, and the location of the facility.

All applicable regulations must be contained in a permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements, to ensure compliance with these rules.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances stored, disposed of, discharged or emitted by the facility?

Potential health effects from a composting operation include respiratory impacts from dust, or diseases caused by pathogens in compost materials such as manure and food wastes. Pathogens can be spread by vectors such as rats, flies and birds.

Odors, while not causing a health effect, can be irritating to nearby residents.

Potential environmental impacts at a composting facility are contamination of surface water or groundwater from contaminated stormwater running off, or percolating into the ground, from the facility.

While these are potential impacts, the Department’s risk assessment has determined that these are unlikely to occur at this facility.

For example, throughout the permitted history of the current composting operation, there have been no compliance issues associated with malodors (although there have been complaints), dust, vectors or disease.

Proposed management of the pilot food waste composting component in a closed container should limit the potential for this new operation to have any health effects as well.

Also, throughout the permitted history of the current composting operation, there have been no compliance issues associated with surfacewater or groundwater contamination. This is largely due to the low rainfall in the area (11 inches of rain annually), the distance to the nearest surface water (1.5 miles), the depth to groundwater (700 feet deep) and the distance to the closest water well (over 1 mile away).

Based on the composting location, types of feedstocks currently being composted and proposed to be composted (food waste), volumes of feedstocks composted (currently approx. 13,500 tons per year), climate, soil types, depth to groundwater and distance to potential receptors, the site is considered a low risk site for possible health effects and environmental impacts.

How are the permitted substances measured?

The Knott Landfill Compost Facility feedstocks and finished compost are measured by the cubic yard.

Compliance history:

A review of the permit file and facility reports indicates that since 1999 DEQ has received five complaints about odor. The complaints usually were called in to DEQ when the compost windrows were turned.

DEQ has received no odor, or other types of complaints about the facility operation, in the last 5 years.

What are the special conditions of this Registration Permit?

There are no special conditions required in this permit.

What other DEQ permits are required?

None

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

None

What happens next?

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the comment period. Following this review, DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed Registration Permit.

The permit writers can only modify conditions of the Registration Permit, however, in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ.

Participation in rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change these rules or statutes. Ultimately, if a facility meets all current

legal requirements, DEQ will issue this Composting Facility Registration Permit.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities at our hearings. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another 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

People with hearing impairments may call 711.