

Public Notice: Request for Comments

Proposed Composting Registration Permit for Northwest Environmental & Recycling, Inc.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Purpose:

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to make written comments on the proposed permit.

Notice issued: Feb. 1, 2012

Written comments due: Mar. 2, 2012

Where can I send my written comments?

NER Composting Comments
c/o Holly Pence
Solid Waste Permit Coordinator
DEQ Northwest Region
2020 SW 4th Ave., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
Fax: 503-229-6945
Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Larry Brown
DEQ Eastern Region, Bend Office
475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend OR 97701
(541) 633-2025
brown.larry@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 e-mail Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us

Permit expiration

This permit will expire on December 31, 2021.

Who is the applicant?

Northwest Environmental & Recycling, Inc.
1045 N. 4th Avenue
Cornelius, OR 97113

Where is the facility located?

Northwest Environmental & Recycling, Inc.
1045 N. 4th Avenue
Cornelius, OR 97113

Who might have an interest?

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

About the site:

This existing composting facility accepts yard debris and wood waste feedstocks generated from commercial and private haulers. NER composts less than 10,000 tons of material annually.

The property is located about a quarter-mile south of Council Creek. Surroundings include a mix of farms, businesses, and residences.

Compliance history:

No compliance issues have been cited at this facility.

The facility has an existing DEQ composting permit which technically expired in 2008. New Oregon composting rules, adopted in 2009, created the need for an updated permit. NER applied for the new-rules permit in a timely manner. The existing permit has been administratively extended until DEQ takes final action on a new permit.

What other DEQ permits are required?

No other DEQ permits are required.

DEQ's Role:

DEQ is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's land, water and air quality. Under Oregon law, DEQ oversees the proper operation of composting facilities. Permits and inspections are major tools DEQ uses to carry out this regulatory duty.

What Oregon laws apply?

Oregon composting rules are specified in Oregon Administrative Rules 340-96-0060 through -0150. Oregon Revised Statutes 459, ORS 459A, and OAR 340 Divisions 93-97 give DEQ the authority to issue permits.

How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?

Permit requirements are based on applicable state and federal regulations, and consider the type of industry, the type and amount of wastes involved, the location of the facility, and its methods of operation. Permits specify activities

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Northwest Region Solid Waste

2020 SW 4th Ave, Ste 400
Portland OR 97201
Contact: Holly Pence
Phone: 503-229-5353
1-800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6945
Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us

Notice Issued: 2/1/2012
By Holly Pence

allowed and prohibited, as well as the recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting necessary to document compliance with the rules.

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

- DEQ issues **registration permits** to facilities whose operations pose low environmental risk. **This is the type of permit DEQ proposes to issue to NER.**
- DEQ issues **individual permits** to facilities that have a higher potential for environmental risk. Such permits include additional requirements for management practices that help avoid harm to human health or the environment.

DEQ assigns these risk levels based on a technical screening process. DEQ staff evaluated NER. compost operations for potential environmental and human health risks, including risks to surface water and groundwater and possible odor impacts to facility neighbors. Based on this evaluation, DEQ has determined that NER. operations pose a low risk to the environment and public health.

What happens next?

DEQ will schedule a public hearing is one is requested by 10 or more people, or by an authorized person representing an organization

of at least 10 people. DEQ will issue an additional public notice to advertise the 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 in response to comments received, 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 ensuring that everyone has access to DEQ's proposed permit and related documents. Please notify us if you need physical or language accommodations in order to participate in the public process. We can provide information in other languages, large print, Braille and other formats. To make these arrangements, contact:

DEQ Communications & Outreach
503-229-5696

or 1-800-452-4011 (toll-free in Oregon)

Fax 503-229-6762

E-mail deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

TTY/TRS: Dial 711.

