

Public Notice

DEQ extends public comment period for Grimm's Fuel proposed composting permit —New deadline is 5 p.m., July 31, 2015

DEQ is extending the public comment period for anyone who wants to provide written comments on the proposed DEQ solid waste composting permit for Grimm's Fuel, a composting facility in Tualatin, OR.

At the public hearing held on July 8, 2015, DEQ learned that several neighbors had not received notification of the public comment period and public hearing. DEQ is extending the comment period for an additional two weeks to allow interested neighbors to submit comments.

Summary

On May 1, 2014 DEQ issued Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 1433 to Grimm's composting facility. The permit incorporated new requirements based on rules adopted in 2009 and 2012. The May 1, 2014 permit contained new conditions that addressed the concerns that DEQ heard from the public at a public hearing held on Oct. 30, 2013 and during the public comment period which ended on Nov. 20, 2013. One condition that DEQ included in the permit was a composting pile height restriction limiting pile heights to 30 feet. On May 16, 2014 Grimm's appealed the permit stating concern with the pile height restriction.

As a result of the appeal, Grimm's Fuel has been operating under an older, expired permit that remains in effect until DEQ issues a new permit. By proposing a revised permit, DEQ withdraws the permit issued on May 1, 2014. The proposed permit no longer contains a pile height restriction. Instead the proposed permit requires Grimm's to monitor for the following parameters throughout the composting piles: oxygen level, temperature, moisture content, and retention time. The permit also requires an updated odor minimization plan. These permit requirements will more accurately demonstrate whether Grimm's is meeting regulatory requirements than a permit condition that restricts composting pile height.

You may submit written comments whether or not you attend the hearing. Send written comments by mail fax or email to:

DEQ Solid Waste Permit Coordinator
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Email: stevens.marc@deq.state.or.us

Fax: 503-229-6945

Written comments due:
5 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2015

About the facility

DEQ has evaluated Grimm's composting operation and determined that it may pose risks to surface waters and has the potential to generate offsite odors. DEQ approved an operations plan to address how the facility would control and minimize these risks. The proposed permit requires Grimm's to submit updated operations and odor minimization plans to DEQ for review and approval within 60 days after the permit is issued. The plans must demonstrate how Grimm's will operate the facility in compliance with the performance standards in the DEQ composting rules.

What types of waste would the permit regulate?

The permit sets conditions for how the facility handles and manages composting feedstocks including yard debris, wood waste, and animal manures. The facility receives about 30,000 tons of feedstocks per year.

If Grimm's proposes to receive residential food waste in the future, the permit requires that Metro approval first be obtained, and a pilot study conducted to demonstrate the facility can compost residential food waste in a way that achieves performance standards. The facility is not allowed to accept commercial food waste.

How does DEQ determine permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates the types of wastes received, potential wastes produced, location of the facility, and its methods of operation.

Under Oregon rules, there are two types of composting facility permits. DEQ issues individual full composting permits to facilities that have a higher potential for environmental risk. Such permits include additional requirements for management practices that prevent harm to human health or the environment. This is the type of permit that DEQ is proposing for Grimm's Fuel.



State of Oregon
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Quality

Northwest Region Environmental Partnerships

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By: Audrey O'Brien

DEQ issues simpler registration permits to facilities with site designs and operations that pose lower environmental risk.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

DEQ must approve an operations plan that identifies how the composting operation will be designed, constructed and operated to meet performance standards and address potential risks to water quality and potential adverse odor impacts. DEQ endeavors to inspect full-permit composting facilities annually to verify compliance. The permit also requires the facility to submit stormwater sampling results and to investigate and resolve any odor issues to the maximum extent practicable.

What happens after the comment period?

DEQ considers and responds to all comments received and may modify the proposed permit based on those comments.

Where can I get more information?

Scroll down to view the permit evaluation report and draft permit for this facility:

You also may view the application and related documents in person at the DEQ Northwest Region office located at 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600 in Portland, OR 97232-4100. For a review appointment, contact Daniel Hough, DEQ Northwest Region Solid Waste Compliance Specialist, at:

Phone: 503-229-5478 or 1-800-452-401

Email: hough.daniel@deq.state.or.us

Fax: 503-229-6945

Accessibility information

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People with hearing impairments may call 711.