

## DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Grimm's Fuel Company Solid Waste Compost Facility Permit Modification

**Corrected Version:** Please note that permit conditions 9.20 and 10.1 have been corrected to say 10% oxygen. DEQ is republishing this Public Notice with this correction.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality requests public comments on a proposed modification to the solid waste compost facility permit for Grimm's Fuel Company in Tualatin. DEQ will hold a public hearing on Feb. 26, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Juanita Pohl Community Center at 8513 SW Tualatin Road, Tualatin, OR to receive verbal comments.

**Comments due:** 5 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2019. All comments will become part of the public record.

**Project location:** Grimm's Fuel Company (Grimm's) facility is located at 18850 SW Cipole Road, Tualatin, OR.

**Proposal:** DEQ proposes to modify Grimm's Solid waste compost facility permit to include new permit conditions that require Grimm's to build infrastructure and modify composting practices in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 459 and Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 340, Divisions 93-96.

**Highlights:** Grimm's owns and operates an existing compost facility which produces finished compost, landscape supplies and soil amendments. The facility received approximately 66,000 tons of incoming feedstock in 2017.

On May 1, 2014 DEQ issued Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 1433. Grimm's appealed the permit as issued and requested a hearing. As a result of the appeal, the previous permit remained temporarily in effect. DEQ revised the permit and initiated a public comment period on June 2, 2015. DEQ issued the current permit on Nov. 20, 2015.

As part of the revised permit, DEQ required Grimm's to develop an odor minimization plan and update their operations plan. DEQ continued to receive odor complaints after the permit was issued.

Metro also licenses Grimm's and received odor complaints. During the Metro relicensing process, Metro issued a request for proposal to perform a facility composting assessment for Grimm's and to provide alternatives/options to mitigate offsite odor conditions in surrounding neighborhoods. Metro selected Green Mountain Technologies (GMT) to perform on-site assessments in January and February 2018. In response to the results of the Metro study, DEQ has incorporated many of the recommendations of that study into the DEQ permit through this proposed modification.

On Feb. 5, 2018 during a strong weather inversion, Grimm's began turning the compost pile. This turning process lasted several days, producing a large odor event with odors being detected up to 3 miles from the facility. DEQ received more than 70 formal complaints about this odor event during the month of February 2018.



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# Public Notice

Partially in response to the large number of odor complaints received when Grimm's turned the compost pile, DEQ performed an environmental compliance inspection on Feb. 23, 2018. DEQ identified several areas of concern during the inspection, which were referred to the DEQ Office

of Compliance and Enforcement. These referrals resulted in DEQ issuing a Notice of Civil Penalty Assessment and Order (Notice) on July 12, 2018. The Notice cited the following violations:

- 1) failing to collect leachate in a containment structure that has adequate capacity to collect and contain the leachate;
- 2) failing to conduct monitoring of the three active compost cells in compliance with the schedule prescribed in the facility's Operation Plan;
- 3) failure to report open burning to DEQ within 24 hours;
- 4) allowing the compost pile to exceed Oregon Fire Code height limit of 25 feet; and
- 5) turning the compost piles during a weather inversion.

DEQ has drafted a modified solid waste compost facility permit for the Grimm's facility and is seeking public comment on the draft permit. Changes in the draft modified permit include:

- Removing conditional authorization for Grimm's to receive food waste
- Requiring a maintained minimum temperature for compost piles to reduce human pathogens
- Setting a timeline to reduce pile heights to reduce odors and mitigate fire hazards
- Requiring cover for compost piles to reduce odors
- Requiring an enclosure and bio-filter system to capture and treat odors during compost screening and handling
- Requiring Grimm's to construct a continuous aeration system for the active compost pile(s) to promote aerobic composting

**How to comment:** Send comments to DEQ Solid Waste Permit Coordinator at DEQ – Northwest Region Environmental Partnerships, 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232-4100 or [DEQNWR.SolidWastePermitCoordinator@deq.state.or.us](mailto:DEQNWR.SolidWastePermitCoordinator@deq.state.or.us).

**Find more information:** Scroll down to view the DEQ permit review report and the draft modified permit. DEQ also maintains a webpage for Grimm's that can be found here – <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Programs/Pages/Grimms-Fuel.aspx>

If you have any technical questions, please contact Jeremy Fleming at 503-229-5590 or by email at [fleming.jeremy@deq.state.or.us](mailto:fleming.jeremy@deq.state.or.us)

To review related documents in person at the DEQ Northwest Region office in Portland, Oregon contact Naveed Mir, at 503-229-5353 or via email at [DEQNWR.SolidWastePermitCoordinator@deq.state.or.us](mailto:DEQNWR.SolidWastePermitCoordinator@deq.state.or.us) to set up an appointment.

**Alternative formats:** Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).



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