



## COMPOSTING AT CAFOs Runoff Management Program – 8/12/09

### DESCRIPTION

A proposal for composting at a CAFO is subject to DNR review under s. NR 243.15(8), Wis. Adm. Code. This guidance outlines information typically needed for a composting proposal for manure, waste feed or mortality management. The CAFO REVIEWABLE FACILITIES or SYSTEMS CHECKLIST, [http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/pdf/ag/cafo/plans\\_specs.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/pdf/ag/cafo/plans_specs.pdf), requests much of the same information. DNR strongly encourages use of the checklist.

### APPLICABILITY

If a roof and clean surface water diversions are provided, a liner is not required (composting on a non-liquid-tight working surface or existing soil surface is allowed).

Composting at temporary location may be reviewed similarly to headland stacking of manure.

DNR defines “composting” as aerobic, but mortality composting may be partially anaerobic.

Additional setbacks in s. NR 502.12, Wis. Adm. Code, apply:

- 250 ft setback from navigable lakes, ponds, flowages, and navigable rivers and streams
- 250 ft setback from property lines when the land is owned by someone other than the owner/operator (may reduce with natural or artificial visual screening – identify in submittal)

Approval from the DNR Solid Waste Program may be required if materials will be accepted from off-site. Additional information can be found in s. NR 502.12, Wis. Adm. Code.

### COMPOSTING PROPOSAL INFORMATION

- Applicant and site location information:
  - Applicant information and authorized contact(s)
  - Property ownership, and location of facility by quarter-quarter section
  - Present land-use
- Composting process information:
  - Overview of composting process and types of materials that will be composted
  - Volume of material involved, annually and total at one time (any material stored prior to composting, materials in-process composting or curing, and any stored finished material)
  - Description of areas for materials storage and composting
  - Operation and maintenance plan (include operational monitoring, turning frequency, etc.)
  - Description of impacts to the nutrient management plan (NMP update accordingly)
- Map(s) identifying the following information:
  - Soils information
  - Topography/relief information
  - Surface waters including lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands
  - Water supply wells and residences within one mile of the property boundary
  - Location of composting, and associated components and areas
- Soil conditions and engineering plans for the composting area, including:
  - Soil borings
  - Depth to groundwater table and bedrock
  - Proposed runoff control structures and clean water diversions
  - Specifications for proposed components, including composting area working surface, leachate collection system and liner (meet NRCS 313, unless a roof is provided)
  - Scaled drawings of proposed location, layout of components and details.

**LEGAL NOTICE:** This document is intended solely as guidance, and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations, and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.