



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL and RESIDUAL WASTE

GENERAL PERMIT WMGM046

**PROCESSING OF DIGESTED SEWAGE SLUDGE USING
QUICKLIME AND SULFAMIC ACID AND BENEFICIAL USE OF
RESULTING MATERIAL BY LAND APPLICATION**

Issued: August 20, 2023

Expires: August 20, 2032

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PROCESSING AND BENEFICIAL USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE

A. Description:

This general permit authorizes the processing of digested sewage sludge by adding quicklime and sulfamic acid, which react to produce elevated temperature and pressure. This general permit also authorizes the beneficial use of the processed digested sewage sludge by land application.

B. Registration Requirements:

A person or municipality that proposes to process digested sewage sludge and/or beneficially use the resultant waste by land application under the terms and conditions of this general permit after the date of permit issuance must obtain a registration from the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A completed application on forms provided by the Department must be submitted electronically to the appropriate Department Regional Office. Additionally, the application fee should be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania". No activities shall commence unless approved, in writing, by the Department.

C. Operating Conditions:

1. The facility shall not be:
 - a. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream;
 - b. Within 150 feet of high quality or exceptional value waters, as defined in 25 Pa. Code § 93.1;
 - c. Within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland;
 - d. Within 300 feet down gradient of a private or public water source;
 - e. Within 100 feet of a sinkhole or area draining into a sinkhole;
 - f. Within 1000 feet up gradient of a private or public water source, unless otherwise approved by the Department's appropriate Regional Office;
 - g. Within 300 feet measured horizontally from an occupied dwelling unless one of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - i. The owner of the dwelling has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet. The waiver shall be knowingly made and separate from a lease or deed unless the lease or deed contains an explicit waiver from the owner, or
 - ii. The operations take place in an enclosed facility, the applicant demonstrates that the location and operation of the facility do not conflict with local land use or local zoning and the applicant has

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provided written notice to owners of all occupied dwellings within 300 feet measured horizontally from the facility;

- h. Within 50 feet of a property line unless the owner demonstrates one of the following:
 - i. That actual processing of waste is not occurring within 50 feet of a property line;
 - ii. That storage and processing take place in an enclosed facility;
 - iii. That the owner of the adjacent property has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 50 feet. The waiver shall be knowingly made and separate from a lease or deed unless the lease or deed contains an explicit waiver from the owner;
 - i. Within 900 feet measured horizontally from the property line, unless a written waiver is obtained from the current property owner of:
 - i. A building owned by a school district or parochial school and used for instructional purposes;
 - ii. A park;
 - iii. A playground;
 - j. In an area where the facility would adversely affect a habitat of a known endangered species;
 - k. Within the 100-year floodplain of a water of this Commonwealth.
2. The incoming digested sewage sludge must be processed to meet the standards for aerobic digestion or anaerobic digestion in 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter J, Appendix A prior to receipt at the facility.
 3. All incoming digested sewage sludge and processed sewage shall be stored and transported in accordance with 25 Pa. Code Chapter 285 (relating to storage and transportation) and the Waste Transportation Safety Act, 27 Pa. C.S. §§ 6201 - 6209.
 4. The daily volume of incoming digested sewage sludge shall not exceed 250 tons per day.
 5. The total volume of waste stored on-site shall not exceed 19,230 tons at any one time.
 6. Prior to beneficial use, sewage sludge has been processed where the temperature of the sewage sludge is maintained at 158°F (or 70°C) or higher for 30 minutes or longer and meet the vector attraction reduction requirements in § 271.933(b)(6) and does not exceed any pollutant limit in § 271.914, Table 3-Pollutant Concentrations.

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7. The beneficial use by land application shall comply with Chapter 271, Subchapter J.
8. The analytical methodologies used to meet the requirements in this general permit shall be those in the most recent edition of the EPA's "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods" (EPA SW-846), "Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes" (EPA 600/4-79-020), "Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Liquid waste" (prepared and published jointly by the American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and Water Pollution Control Federation), the Department's "Sampling Manual for Pollutant Limits, Pathogens and Vector Attraction Reductions in Sewage Sludge" or a comparable method subsequently approved by the EPA or the Department.
9. Upon cessation of permitted operations at the facility, the permittee shall assure removal of all wastes and provide for the processing, recycling, beneficial use, or disposal of wastes in accordance with the SWMA, the environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
10. The activities authorized by this permit shall not cause or allow conditions that are harmful to the environment, public health or safety, including but not limited to, odors, noise, or other public nuisances. The permittee shall not cause or allow the attraction, harborage, or breeding of vectors.
11. The permittee shall develop and implement a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (PPC) that is consistent with the Department's most recent guidelines.
12. All activities conducted under the authorization granted in this permit shall be conducted in accordance with the permittee's application. Except to the extent the permit states otherwise, the permittee shall utilize materials as described in the permit application.
13. Any sewage sludge generated from the processing activity authorized by this general permit, that are not beneficially used shall be managed in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 - 6018.1003 and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
14. The permittee shall comply with the fugitive emissions regulations under 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 123 (relating to standards for contaminants) issued under the Air Pollution Control Act, the Act of January 8, 1960, P.L. 2119, 35 P.S. §4005, and shall comply with all the applicable provisions of 25 Pa. Code §§123.1 and 123.2 (relating to prohibition of certain fugitive emissions and fugitive particulate matter).
15. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to supersede, amend, or authorize a violation of any of the provisions of any valid and applicable local law, ordinance, or regulation, providing that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA), 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101—

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6018.1001; and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §§4000.101, et seq.

16. As a condition of this general permit and of the permittee's authority to conduct the activities authorized by this general permit, the permittee hereby authorizes and consents to allow authorized employees or agents of the Department, without advance notice or search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials and without delay, to have access to and inspect all areas on which solid waste management activities are being, will be, or have been conducted. This authorization and consent shall include consent to collect samples of waste, soils, water, or gases; take photographs; perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; inspect any monitoring equipment; inspect the methods of operation and inspect and/or copy documents, books, and papers required by the Department to be maintained. This permit condition is referenced in accordance with Sections 6018.608 and 6018.610(7) of the SWMA, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.608 and 6018.610(7). This condition in no way limits any other powers granted under the SWMA.
17. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of activities authorized under this general permit shall be subject to compliance history review by the Department prior to performance of any activities, as specified by the SWMA.
18. Failure of measures herein approved to perform as intended, or as designed, or in compliance with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations and terms and conditions of this permit, for any reason, shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the permittee's approval to operate under this permit.
19. The activities authorized by this general permit shall not harm or present a threat of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the people or environment of this Commonwealth. The Department may modify, suspend, revoke, and reissue the authorization granted in this general permit if it deems necessary to prevent harm or the threat of harm to the public health, and the environment or if they cannot be adequately regulated under the conditions of this general permit.
20. The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of this general permit and with the environmental protection acts to the same extent as if the activities were covered by an individual permit. The Department may require an individual permit be obtained if the permittee cannot comply with the conditions of this general permit or is conducting an activity that harms or presents a threat of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or the environment of this Commonwealth.
21. This permit does not authorize and shall not be construed as an approval to discharge any waste, wastewater, or runoff from the site of processing to the land or waters of the Commonwealth.
22. Best Management Practices shall be implemented to divert storm water run-on from the storage area. Storm water runoff shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder. Prior to

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beginning operations at the facility, the operator must obtain all necessary storm water management permits.

23. The permittee shall maintain in force and affect a general liability insurance policy in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter D (relating to financial assurances requirements) to provide continuous coverage during operation of the facility and until the Department issues a final closure certification.
24. The permittee shall maintain a bond in the amount and with sufficient guarantees acceptable to DEP as provided by 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter D (bonding and insurance requirements). The bond should guarantee the removal and proper management of the maximum volume of sewage sludge (before, during and after processing) and other wastes at the facility at any one time, if required. The amount of the bond shall be based upon the total estimated cost (i.e., off-site disposal, transportation cost, decontamination cost) to the Commonwealth for removal and proper management of the wastes associated with operations permitted under WMGM046. DEP may require additional bonding for any other necessary measures to prevent adverse impacts upon public health, safety, welfare, and environment.
25. Equipment used for the storage of sewage sludge shall be maintained in good operating condition. Weekly inspections of each storage area and surrounding environs shall be conducted to determine compliance of the terms and conditions of this general permit and for evidence of failure.
26. Storage of sewage sludge by the permittee shall be in a manner that complies with the requirements set forth in 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 285 (relating to storage and transportation of municipal waste).
27. The sewage sludge that is processed for beneficial use under this general permit shall not be mixed with other types of solid wastes, including hazardous waste, municipal waste, special handling waste, or other residual waste, as the terms are defined in 25 Pa. Code § 287.1.
28. Analytical testing required by this general permit shall be performed by a laboratory accredited under the Pennsylvania Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act, Act of 2002, 27 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 4101-4113.

D. Recordkeeping:

1. The permittee shall maintain records of all analytical evaluations conducted in accordance with this permit, and records shall be made available to the Department upon request. Required records shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years. Records of analytical evaluations must include, at a minimum, the following for each sample: the dates of sampling and testing, sampling procedures utilized, name of the individual who collected the sample, the volume or weight of the sample, each parameter tested, the analytical results, the name of the analytical laboratory used, and the analytical methodologies employed.

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2. The permittee shall maintain records of all waste accepted by the facility, and records shall be made available to the Department upon request. Required records shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years. Records of each source of incoming waste must include, at a minimum, the following: the name, address, and phone number of each source of incoming waste; the date of receipt; the quantity of waste received; the results of visual observations; and the name, address, and phone number of the destination of each outgoing shipment of waste, along with corresponding volumes. The permittee shall also maintain records of spills or releases that include, at a minimum, the following: the location, date, time, identification, and quantity of spilled or released material, and a description of how the material was cleaned up. The permittee shall also maintain records of all reports submitted to the Department or to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
3. The dates and volumes of processed sewage sludges produced by the operation of the facility as follows:
 - a. For continuous processes, the volumes should be recorded on a daily basis.
 - b. For batch processes, the volumes should be recorded on a per-batch basis.
 - c. The volume of lime and sulfamic acid used daily.
 - d. The daily temperature probe data that demonstrates the temperature of the sewage sludge being processed is maintained at 158°F (or 70°C) or higher for 30 minutes or longer.
 - e. For each batch from each operating day, in no instances exceeding 250 tons, data that demonstrates that the meet the vector attraction reduction requirements in § 271.933(b)(6) are achieved.
4. Representative composite sampling to demonstrate that the processed sewage sludge does not exceed any pollutant limit in § 271.914, Table 3-Pollutant Concentrations.

E. Reporting Requirements:

1. Any person that operates under the provisions of this permit shall immediately notify the Department via certified mail of any changes in: the company name, address, owners, operators, and/or responsible officials of the company, compliance status, and the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts.
2. Persons operating under the provision of this general permit shall submit to the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list), an annual report on the beneficial use activities conducted under this permit by March 1 for the preceding calendar year. This report shall include the information required by D(1)-(4).

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3. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department's Emergency Hotline by telephone at 800-541-2050 and the waste management program in the appropriate DEP regional office (see attached list) of any accidental spills and shall take appropriate immediate action to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment.

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F. Renewal:

A permittee that plans to continue the operations authorized under this general permit, after the expiration date indicated on the approval for coverage page, shall file a complete application for permit renewal at least 180 days before the expiration date of this general permit unless permission has been granted by the Department for submission at a later date. The renewal applications shall be submitted electronically to the appropriate DEP Regional Office (see attached list) and include, at a minimum, the following:

1. General Information Form (Authorization Application for a Residual or Municipal Waste General Permit Application),
2. Form B (Professional Certification),
3. Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit),
4. Form 27M (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions), and
5. Updated bonding worksheets.
6. DOA application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

Additionally, a renewal application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20 must be sent to the appropriate Department Regional Office. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the Department is unable, through no fault of the permittee, to reissue the general permit or approval for coverage before its current coverage expiration date, the terms and conditions of the approved coverage will automatically continue and will remain fully effective and enforceable pending the issuance or denial of the renewal for permit coverage, provided the permittee is, and has been, operating in compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit.

**Department of Environmental Protection
Regional Offices
(and Counties Served)**

- I. Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia.

Southeast Regional Office
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: (484) 250 - 5960

- II. Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
Phone: (570) 826 – 2516

- III. Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York.

Southcentral Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Phone: (717) 705 – 4706

- IV. Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Northcentral Regional Office
208 West 3rd Street - Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: (570) 327 – 3653

- V. Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 442 – 4000

- VI. Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Northwest Regional Office
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335-3481
Phone: 814-332-6848