

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL and RESIDUAL WASTE**

GENERAL PERMIT WMGR110

**BENEFICIAL USE OF BLENDED RESIDENTIAL
SEPTAGE, FOOD PROCESSING RESIDUALS AND
RESTAURANT GREASE TRAP WASTE TREATED TO
NON-EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY FOR AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES**

**Issued: June 19, 2016
Expires: June 19, 2026**

Description:

The approval herein granted is limited to the beneficial use of: (a) residential septage, (b) food processing residuals and (c) restaurant grease trap waste, hereinafter referred to as “blended waste” materials, as a soil conditioner or a fertilizer for agricultural purposes. The blended waste shall be treated to non-exceptional quality biosolid values.

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 or reissue the authorization granted in this general permit if it deems necessary to prevent harm or the threat of harm to the public health or the environment. Any waste applied under this general permit must meet the minimal standards as described in General Permit number PAG-08 For Beneficial Use of Biosolids By Land Application.

Determination of Applicability Requirements:

A person or municipality that proposes to operate under the terms and conditions of this general permit after the date of permit issuance must apply for and obtain a “Determination of Applicability” (“DOA”) from the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A completed application on forms available from the Department must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. A check in the amount identified on Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit) shall be made payable to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” No activities shall commence unless approved, in writing, by the Department.

Operating Conditions:

1. The following harvesting restrictions must be followed when land applying blended waste:
 - a. Food crops with harvested parts that touch the blended waste/soil mixture and are totally above the land surface may not be harvested for 14 months after application of blended waste.
 - b. Food crops with harvested parts below the surface of the land may not be harvested for 20 months after application of blended waste when the blended waste remains on the land surface for 4 months or longer prior to incorporation into the soil.
 - c. Food crops with harvested parts below the surface of the land may not be harvested for 38 months after application of blended waste when the blended waste remains on the land surface for less than 4 months prior to incorporation into the soil.
 - d. Food crops (other than food crops specified in b and c), feed crops and fiber crops may not be harvested for 30 days after application of blended waste.

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- e. Animals may not be allowed to graze on the land for 30 days after application of blended waste.
 - f. Turf grown on land where blended waste is applied may not be harvested for 1 year after application of the blended waste when the harvested turf is placed on either land with a high potential for public exposure or a lawn, unless otherwise specified by the Department.
 - g. Public access to land with a high potential for public exposure shall be restricted for 1 year after application of blended waste.
 - h. Public access to land with a low potential for public exposure shall be restricted for 30 days after application of blended waste.
2. A permittee operating under this general permit shall not land apply blended waste within:
- a. The 100-year floodplain of waters of this Commonwealth, unless the Department approves in the permit a method of protecting the facility from a 100-year flood consistent with the Flood Plain Management Act (32 P. S. §§679.101 - 679.601) and the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act (32 P. S. §§693.1 - 693.27).
 - b. 100 feet of a perennial stream or within 33 feet of an intermittent stream.
 - c. 300 feet of a drinking water source, unless otherwise approved by the Department, in writing.
 - d. 1,000 feet upgradient of a surface water drinking source for public use.
 - e. 300 feet of an occupied dwelling, unless otherwise approved by the Department, in writing.
 - f. 50 feet of the property line, unless the current owner of the adjacent property has provided a written consent for the land application of the blended waste closer than 50 feet from the property line.
 - g. 100 feet of a wetland.
 - h. 100 feet of a sinkhole.
3. The blended wastes shall not be land applied in areas:
- a. Within 11 inches of the seasonal high water table or within 3.3 feet of the regional water table.
 - b. That has a slope of greater than 25%.

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4. The land application of the blended waste must be land applied in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan.
5. The land application of the blended waste may not occur in an area without an implemented erosion and sedimentation control plan or a farm conservation plan in accordance with 25 Pa. Code §102 (relating to erosion control).
6. A representative sample of the blended waste must be tested in accordance with Appendix A of this general permit and the frequency of monitoring for:
 - a. The constituents required in Table A of this general permit shall be sampled once per 90 days (4 times per year and at least 80 days and not more than 100 days apart). If processed blended waste is not available for sampling and analysis in the normal 80 to 100 day testing window, a sample shall be collected and analyzed as soon as it is available after the 100 day window. Subsequent sampling and testing events shall maintain the intended quarterly schedule as closely as possible.
 - b. The blended waste is not allowed to be land applied to agricultural land where any of the cumulative pollutant loading rate (CPLR) limits listed in Appendix A, Table B have been reached.
 - c. The constituents required in Tables C and D of this general permit shall be tested on a batch basis prior to land application.
 - d. The Department may reduce the frequency of monitoring required in this Condition, but may not be less than once per year, after the blended waste has been monitored for 2 years and the permittee has submitted a written request to the Department asking for a lesser frequency of monitoring.
7. The blended waste may not contain more than 15,000 mg/l of fats, oil, and grease or have man-made inerts larger than 4 millimeters.
8. The blended wastes may not be land applied during a rain event or when the ground is frozen, snow covered, or saturated.
9. The processing and storage of the waste streams and the final blended waste shall be conducted under a separate Department issued permit.
10. The blended waste must be applied in a manner that will not cause harm or present a threat of harm to the health, safety or welfare for the people or the environment of this Commonwealth.
11. Equipment used for the application of the blended waste shall be maintained in good operating condition. Daily inspection of the equipment used during application is to be conducted to ensure that the equipment will operate properly and is examined for evidence of failure.

12. A person who operates under this General Permit must maintain the following information:
- a. A person who operates under this general permit shall obtain written consent of the owner of the land upon which the blended waste will be land applied, on a form prepared by the Department, prior to land applying the blended waste.
 - b. A person who operates under this general permit, at least 7 days prior to land applying blended waste for the first time at a location, shall provide the occupant of the land with a user instruction sheet prepared by the person operating under the permit that describes the acceptable uses and limitations of the blended waste.
 - c. A person who prepares blended waste that is land applied at a location and a person who land applies blended waste at a location for agricultural purposes shall send or otherwise provide written notification to the adjacent landowners, the county conservation district and the Department at least 30 days prior to the first application of the blended waste at that location. The notification shall:
 - i. Include a brief description of the operation, any site restrictions, the name of the person land applying the blended waste and the applicable permit number.
 - ii. Be sent by personal delivery or first class mail and, for an adjacent landowner, shall also be given by posting at the property line in a manner sufficient to notify the adjacent landowner of the items in condition C(13).
 - iii. For the county conservation district and the Department, include the location of the fields on a United States Geological Survey map and on a Natural Resources Conservation Service Soils Map.
 - iv. For the Department, be sent to the Department's regional office that has jurisdiction for the location where the blended waste will be applied.
 - d. The person who prepares blended waste that is applied to agricultural land shall provide the person who applies the blended waste written notification of the concentration of most limiting constituent in the blended waste.
 - e. When a person who prepares blended waste and provides the blended waste to a person who applies the blended waste to the land, the person who prepares the blended waste shall provide the person who applies the blended waste a notice and necessary information to comply with this general permit.
 - f. When a person who prepares blended waste provides the blended waste to another person who prepares the blended waste, the person who provides the blended waste shall provide the person who receives the blended waste, a notice and necessary information to comply with this general permit.

- g. The person who applies blended waste to the land shall provide the legal or equitable owner, or lease holder, of the land on which the blended waste is applied, a notice and necessary information to comply with this general permit.
- 13. Any person that operates under the provisions of this permit shall immediately notify the appropriate Department Regional Office, in writing, of any changes in: the company name, address, owners, operators and responsible officials, or quality of the blended waste as specified in Appendix A, pathogen reduction and vector attraction treatment provided to the blended waste, 90% or more of any of the cumulative pollutant loading rates (CPLRs) in Appendix A of this general permit is reached, the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts and date, time and location at which land application will occur, when requested by the Department, for the purpose of inspection or investigation of compliance or non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit and with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.
- 14. In the event of a spill or release of the blended waste, any of the individual waste streams, or any other materials resulting from land application, the permittee shall take appropriate immediate action to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment and immediately reported it to the Department's Emergency Hotline at (717) 787-4343 and the appropriate DEP regional office.
- 15. The permittee shall retain records at the permittee's place of business for a minimum of 5 years from the date the records were generated and shall make them available to the Department for inspection upon request. These records shall contain the source of incoming waste including the name, address, and telephone number of the source, the date of receipt and quantity of waste received. The records must meet the requirements of 25 Pa. Code § 271.918 of the Municipal Waste Regulations and the Recordkeeping and Reporting Form (3800-FM-WSWM0340a).
- 16. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of activities authorized under this general permit shall be in compliance with all environmental statutes and regulations.
- 17. By applying under this general permit, the permittee hereby 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 and to inspect all areas or permittee-controlled adjacent areas where solid waste management activities are being or will be conducted. This authorization and consent shall include consent to collect samples of waste, water, or gases; to take photographs; to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; to inspect any monitoring equipment; to inspect the methods of operation; and to inspect and/or copy documents, books, and papers required by the Department to be maintained or produced. (See Sec. 608 and 610(7) of the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.608 and 6018.610(7)). This condition in no way limits any other powers granted to the Department under the Solid Waste Management Act.

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18. 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, provided that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 – 6018.1003; Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, 53 P.S. §§ 4000.101 – 4000.1904; Air Pollution Control Act, 35 P.S. §§ 4001 – 4015, and The Clean Streams Law, 35 P.S. §§ 691.1 – 691.1001.
19. Failure of the measures herein approved to perform as intended, 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.
20. Any person that operates under the provisions of this general permit shall immediately notify the Waste Management Program at the Department's appropriate Regional Office via certified mail of any changes in: the company name, address, owners, operators and responsible officials; land ownership and the right to enter and operate on any land occupied by a permittee; and the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts.
21. At least thirty (30) days prior to a permittee land applying at a new location, a completed copy of the Determination Of Applicability is supplied to the Waste Management Program at the Department's appropriate Regional Office. There is no application fee for existing permittees to operate at a new location.
22. The permittee shall maintain at the application site an updated copy of a Preparedness, Prevention, and Contingency (PPC) plan for the facility prepared in accordance with the most recent edition of the Department's "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Environmental Emergency Response Plans". The PPC plan shall be updated every 5 years or more frequently if necessary (e.g., if changes in phone numbers, equipment, or regulatory requirements occur).
23. 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 if the permittee is not in compliance 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 people or the environment.
24. The blended waste cannot be land applied in watersheds classified as "Exceptional Value (EV)" in Title 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93.
25. This General Permit may be modified or revoked or reissued or terminated for cause by the DEP prior to expiration of this General Permit if there is evidence indicting known or potentially adverse impacts to public health or the environment, or if the blended waste cannot be adequately regulated under the provisions of this General Permit, in which case the permittee may be required to obtain an individual permit.

26. The Department will require persons land applying blended waste to complete the biosolid training courses sponsored by the Department in a timely and satisfactory manner. Satisfactory completion means attendance at all sessions of training, and attainment of a minimum grade of 70% on tests given as part of the training courses. In the case of a person who prepares blended waste that will be land applied, and a person who land applies blended waste, at least one person with responsibility for the land application of blended waste shall satisfactorily complete the training in a timely fashion. The Department may suspend or revoke the coverage under a land application of blended waste general permit if the person does not satisfactorily complete the training courses within one (1) year.
27. The blended waste mixture must meet the requirements for non-exceptional biosolid values for pathogen and vector attraction reduction.
28. If any constituent level listed in Appendix A, Table A or Table C is exceeded or the blended waste contains a combination of sodium absorption ratio (SAR) and electrical conductivity (EC) value in the severe hazard category of Table D, the blended waste may not be land applied and the blended waste must be disposed of at a permitted facility. If any Cumulative Pollutant Loading Rate (CPLR) limits listed in Appendix A, Table B are exceeded, the field may no longer be utilized for the application of blended waste.
29. Failure to maintain compliance with the requirements of this general permit may subject the permittee to an automatic suspension of the facilities permit and other penalties as enforced in the Solid Waste Management Act and it's subsequent revisions.
30. Persons operating under the provisions of this general permit shall submit, within 30 days after the anniversary date of this permit, to the appropriate Department Regional Office, an annual report which contains the information outlined in Conditions 6 and 7 of the general permit. The annual report must also include laboratory reports performed on a representative sample of the blended waste material for all the constituents listed in Tables A, C, and D of this general permit. The analysis data submitted in compliance with this requirement must be from samples of the blended waste material collected within the past six (6) months.

Renewal:

A person or municipality 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 application shall include a completed (i) General Information Form (Authorization Application for a Residual or Municipal Waste General Permit Application), (ii) Form B (Professional Certification), (iii) Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit), (iv) Form 27 (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions), and (v) bonding

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worksheets, and (vi) a DOA application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20 must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." A copy of the renewal application shall also be sent to the attention of the Department's Bureau of Waste Management, Division of Municipal and Residual Waste, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, P.O. Box 69170, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9170.

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.

Appendix A

The blended waste may be beneficially used for application upon agricultural lands as a soil conditioner or fertilizer if none of the following limits are exceeded. The blended wastes must be tested in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 271.906 of the Municipal Waste Regulations. The following constituents shall be tested in accordance with condition 6 of this general permit. The analysis for Table A shall be based upon the “total”, and conducted utilizing the “Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods” (EPA SW-846), or other methods approved by the Department.

Table A
 Constituents to be tested on annual basis
 in accordance with Condition C (6) of the General Permit.

Parameters	Option 1 ⁽¹⁾ Acceptable Total Limits (mg/kg)	Option 2 ⁽²⁾ Acceptable Total Limits (mg/kg)	Option 2 ⁽²⁾ Acceptable Leachable Limits (mg/L)	Option 3 ⁽³⁾ Acceptable Limits Total (mg/kg)	Option 3 ⁽³⁾ Acceptable Leachable Limits (mg/L)
pH (range)	5.5-12.5	5.5-12.5	5.5-12.5	5.5-12.5	5.5-12.5
Arsenic	12	12	0.25	12	0.05
Cadmium	2.5	47	0.125	47	0.005
Copper	1,500	1,500	25	1,500	1
Lead	112.5	500	0.125	500	0.005
Mercury	1	66	0.05	66	0.002
Molybdenum	18	18	4.375	18	0.175
Nickel	50	420	2.5	420	0.1
Selenium	25	1,100	1	1,100	0.05
Sodium	See Table D	See Table D	NA	See Table D	NA
Zinc	1,000	2,800	50	2,800	2
PCBs	2	2	NA	2	NA

(1) Option 1: There must be at least 4 feet between the lowest area where waste is placed and the seasonal high water table, perched water table or bedrock unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Department.

(2) Option 2: The total and leachable levels must be met. There must be at least 4 feet between the lowest area where waste is placed and the seasonal high water table, perched water table or bedrock unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Department.

(3) Option 3: The total and leachate levels must be met. The 4 feet of attenuating soil is not required.

Appendix A (Continued)

Table B
Cumulative Pollutant Loading Rate (CPLR) Limits.

Constituent	Limit
Arsenic	36 lbs./acre
Cadmium	34 lbs./acre
Copper	1320 lbs./acre
Lead	264 lbs./acre
Mercury	15 lbs./acre
Nickel	370 lbs./acre
Selenium	88 lbs./acre
Zinc	2464 lbs./acre

Table C
Constituents To Be Tested For Each Batch To Be Land Applied.

Constituents	Limit
Organic Nitrogen	Based on NMP ¹
Ammonium Nitrogen	Based on NMP ¹
BOD ²	Based on application rate
FOG ³	15,000 mg/l
Electrical Conductivity	See Table D

¹ (NMP) Nutrient Management Plan

² (BOD) Biological Oxygen Demand

³ (FOG) Fats, Oil, and Grease

These determinations may be based upon the 90 percent upper confidence level using “Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods” (EPA SW-846) as guidance for statistical treatment of data. If the waste exceeds any of these limits the permittee shall re-analyze the waste for the chemical parameter(s) in question. If re-analysis shows that the waste still exceeds the limit(s), the permittee shall notify the appropriate regional office of the Department. When pH adjustment is used for either VAR or pathogen reduction, the pH reading must be temperature corrected to 25 degrees Celsius.

Appendix A (Continued)

Table D
 SAR and Salinity/Soluble Salts of Blended Waste Material
 To Be Tested For Each Batch Prior To Land Application

Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR) of Blended Waste Material	Hazard		
	None ⁽¹⁾	Slight/Moderate ⁽²⁾	Severe ⁽³⁾
	Salinity/Soluble Salts of Blended Waste Material (EC as mmhos/cm)		
0 - 3	> 0.7	0.7 – 0.2	< 0.2
3 – 6	> 1.2	1.2 – 0.3	< 0.3
6 – 12	> 1.9	1.9 – 0.5	< 0.5
12 – 20	> 2.9	2.9 – 1.3	< 1.3
20 – 40	> 5.0	5.0 – 2.9	< 2.9

- ⁽¹⁾ Land application of blended waste material is permissible, and no soil Na monitoring is necessary for the land application of blended waste material.
- ⁽²⁾ Land application activity is permissible. However, soil monitoring for Exchangeable Sodium Percentage⁽⁴⁾ (ESP) and Salinity/Soluble Salts⁽⁵⁾ (EC), at the end of growing season, is required. If soil ESP exceeds 10% and/or soil EC exceeds 0.8 mmhos/cm, the land application of blended waste material shall be suspended on affected fields until soil ESP ≤ 10% and soil EC ≤ 0.8 mmhos/cm is achieved.
- ⁽³⁾ Land application of blended waste material containing combination of SAR and EC values in severe hazard category is not permitted.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP) constituents determined by Mehlich 3 extraction procedure.
- ⁽⁵⁾ Salinity/Soluble Salts (EC) of soil determined by 2:1 – Water/Soil method.

**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, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

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

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

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