

**GENERAL PERMIT WMGM046
PROCESSING AND BENEFICIAL USE
OF SEWAGE SLUDGE**

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

Amended

Expires August 19, 2023

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A. Description.

1. This general permit authorizes the processing of digested sewage sludge for beneficial use by land application.
2. The approved processing is limited to the addition of quicklime and sulfamic acid which react to produce elevated temperature and pressure.

B. Registration 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 obtain a registration from the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A registration shall include the following:

- (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 27R (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions),
- (v) Bonding Worksheets,
- (vi) An application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of Form 20, payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

No activities shall commence unless and until approved, in writing, by the Department.

C. Operating Conditions.

1. Nothing in this general permit shall be construed to supersede, amend, or authorize a violation of any of the provisions of any valid and applicable law, ordinance, or regulations, providing that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the 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 - 4005; Waste Transportation Safety Act, 27 Pa. C.S. §§ 6201 - 6209; Oil and Gas Act, §§ 58 P.S. 601.101 – 601.605; Radiation Protection Act, 35 P.S. §§ 7110.101 - 7110.703 and the Clean Streams Law, 35 PS. §§ 691.1 - 691.1001.
2. The processing and beneficial use 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:

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- a. Modify, suspend, revoke, or reissue the authorization granted in this general permit if the permittee cannot comply with the conditions of this general permit or if the authorized processing and beneficial use activities cannot be adequately regulated under the conditions of this general permit.
 - b. Require a person or municipality authorized by a general permit to apply for, and obtain, an individual permit when the person or municipality is not in compliance with the conditions of the 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 of this Commonwealth.
3. 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 general permit, for any reason, shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the permittee's approval to operate under this general permit.
 4. 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.
 5. The permittee shall not cause or allow a point or non-point source discharge of any of the following: digested sewage sludge and processed sewage sludge; quicklime; sulfamic acid; combined stormwater runoff and leachate, if generated; or runoff from the staging, processing, and storage areas where solid waste management activities are conducted; to the surface waters of the Commonwealth, unless permitted by the Department.
 6. The sewage sludge that is processed for beneficial use under this general permit shall not be mixed with other types of waste materials, including hazardous waste, municipal waste, special handling waste, or other residual waste, unless otherwise approved by the Department in writing.
 7. At a minimum, weekly inspections of all processing and storage areas are to be conducted to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this general permit, and for evidence of failure.
 8. The processing, storage and transportation of the digested sewage sludge, processed sewage sludge and any other wastes that are generated shall be conducted in a manner that will not create a nuisance or be harmful to the public health, safety or the environment of this Commonwealth.

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9. 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.
10. The daily volume of incoming digested sewage sludge shall not exceed 250 tons per day.
11. The total volume of waste stored on-site shall not exceed 19,230 tons at any one time.
12. 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.
13. The beneficial use by land application shall comply with Chapter 271, Subchapter J.
14. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to divert stormwater run-off away from the facility. Stormwater runoff shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder. Prior to commencing operations at the facility, the permittee must comply with regulations and obtain all the necessary erosion and sediment control and stormwater management permits.
15. The permittee shall comply with the applicable provisions of 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 123 (Standards for Contaminants) issued under the Air Pollution Control Act, 35 P.S. §§ 4001-4005 and shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Fugitive Emissions Sections 123.1, 123.2, and 123.31.
16. A financial bond, which guarantees the removal and proper management of the maximum volume of unprocessed and processed sewage sludge at the facility at any one time, is 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. The Department may require additional bonding for any other necessary measures to prevent adverse impacts upon public health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

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17. As a condition of this permit and of the permittee's authority to conduct the activities authorized by this 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 to inspect all areas on which solid waste management activities required of the permittee 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; to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; inspect any monitoring equipment; to 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 §§ 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 under the Solid Waste Management Act.
18. 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.
19. All activities conducted under the authorization granted in this permit shall be conducted in accordance with the permittee's application, except to the extent that there is a conflict with the regulations or governing statutes.
20. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of processing and beneficial use activity authorized under this permit shall be subject to a compliance history review by the Department prior to performance of activities under this general permit, as specified by the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 – 6018.1003.
21. A Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency (PPC) plan that is consistent with the most recent edition of the Department's "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Environmental Emergency Response Plans" shall be developed and maintained at the facility. The PPC plan shall be updated as needed or at least every five years. The permittee shall immediately implement the applicable provisions of the Department-approved PPC plan for any emergency that affects or threatens public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.
22. Upon cessation of operations at the facilities operating under the authorization granted in this permit, the permittee shall clean and/or remove any residual waste, storage tanks and structures or other materials that contain or have been contaminated with residual waste and shall provide for the processing and disposal of the waste or material in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 – 6018.1003, other environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

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23. 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 be made using the "Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit)".

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.

24. The facility shall not be located:
- a. In the 100-year floodplain of waters of this Commonwealth, unless the Department approves in the permit a method for 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 Encroachment Act (32 P.S. §§ 693.1 - 693.27).
 - b. In or within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland.
 - c. 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 provided written notice to owners of all occupied dwellings within 300 feet measured horizontally from the facility.
 - d. 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.

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- 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.
 - e. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream unless the storage and processing will not occur within that distance and no adverse hydrologic or water quality impacts will result.
 - f. Within 150 feet of high quality or exceptional value waters, as defined in 25 Pa. Code § 93.1.
 - g. Within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.
 - h. 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.
 - i. In an area where the facility would adversely affect a habitat of a known endangered or threatened species.
25. 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.
26. The analyses shall be performed by a laboratory accredited or registered for accreditation under the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act, 27 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 4101-4113.

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D. Recordkeeping.

1. The permittee shall maintain records of the incoming digested sewage sludges, processing activity and beneficial use of the processed sewage sludge as follows:
 - a. Names of the generators and locations where the incoming digested sewage sludges were generated.
 - b. The dates and volumes of incoming digested sewage sludges received by the facility.
 - c. The dates and volumes of processed sewage sludges produced by the operation of the facility as follows:
 - i. For continuous processes, the volumes should be recorded on a daily basis.
 - ii. For batch processes, the volumes should be recorded on a per-batch basis.
 - iii. The volume of lime and sulfamic acid used daily.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
 - d. Representative composite sampling to demonstrate that the processed sewage sludge does not exceed any pollutant limit in § 271.914, Table 3- Pollutant Concentrations.
 - e. The dates, volumes, and locations, including the names of the facilities to which the processed sewage sludges are transported for beneficial use, disposal, storage, transfer or processing.
 - f. Tonnage of incoming digested sewage sludge received and tonnage of sewage sludge processed shall be recorded daily. The daily record shall indicate the total tonnage of incoming, in-process, and processed sewage sludge remaining at the site at the end of each day.
 - g. All sampling and analytical results required by Condition C.13.
2. All records required in this general permit shall be maintained on-site for a minimum of five years and shall be made available to the Department upon request. Should a facility no longer be located at the site where the processing occurred, the records shall be maintained by the permittee for a minimum of five years and shall be made available to the Department upon request.

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E. Reporting Requirements.

1. Any person who operates under the provisions of this permit shall immediately notify, in writing, within 15 days the Solid Waste Manager of the appropriate regional office of the Department (address in attached list) of any changes in: the name, address, owners, permittees, and/or responsible officials of the company; the location of processing facilities; compliance status; land ownership and the right to enter and operate sites operated by the permittee; the bonding status of the facilities authorized by this permit; and the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts.
2. Any person currently operating under the provisions of this general permit must notify the Department's Regional Office having jurisdiction over the new processing facility, in writing, if the existing processing facility will be relocated to a new location, or if an additional processing facility, owned and/or operated by the permittee, will be added for coverage under this general permit.
 - a. In addition to the notice, the following must be submitted for the Department's approval:
 - i. A completed Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit);
 - ii. An application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of Form 20 made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania"; and completed bonding worksheets.
 - b. The new or relocated facility shall not operate until adequate bonding has been approved by the Department. When an existing facility is relocated, the existing bond may be used to cover the new facility, provided the bond amount adequately covers the operations at the new or relocated facility.
3. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department's Emergency Hotline by telephone at 800-541-2050 and the appropriate DEP regional office waste management program in the event of a discharge or any spill of digested sewage sludge or processed sewage sludge in a quantity in excess of 1000 kg and shall take appropriate immediate action to protect the public health and safety of the environment.

**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 18701-1915
Phone: (570) 826 – 2511

- 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