



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

**BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL and RESIDUAL WASTE**

**GENERAL PERMIT WMGM051**

**PROCESSING OF MUNICIPAL WASTE FOR BENEFICIAL USE**

**Issued: October 9, 2014**

**Amended: May 20, 2021**

**Expires: October 9, 2024**

## PROCESSING OF MUNICIPAL WASTE FOR BENEFICIAL USE

### A. Description:

The approval granted herein is limited to transfer facilities that temporarily store and gravity separate or mechanically separate the solids from residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste in aboveground or partially aboveground tanks and tank trucks for ultimate discharge to the following facilities:

1. For permittees accepting only residential septage or residential septage mixed with restaurant grease trap waste:
  - a. A permitted wastewater treatment plant that is authorized to land apply septage or sewage sludge under Chapter 271, Subchapter J.
  - b. Facilities which are approved under General Permit PAG-09 to process and beneficially use residential septage by land application.
2. For permittees accepting municipal waste sewage sludge, or combinations of municipal waste sewage sludge, residential septage and restaurant grease trap waste:
  - a. A permitted wastewater treatment plant that is authorized to land apply septage or sewage sludge under Chapter 271, Subchapter J.
  - b. Facilities which are approved under a General Permit (PAG-07 or PAG-08) or an individual permit issued under the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) Bureau of Clean Water, Division of Water Quality Standards to process and beneficially use sewage sludge or residential septage by land application.

### B. 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 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 provided by the Department along with the application fee for a DOA must 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 Requirements:

1. The aboveground tanks shall, at a minimum, meet the requirement in 25 Pa. Code, § 285.122. A permittee storing residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste in aboveground tanks and tank trucks shall employ best engineering design and construction practices for all phases of construction and operation.
2. The tank trucks shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements in 25 Pa. Code, § 285.121. In addition, a permittee storing residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or

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restaurant grease trap waste in aboveground tanks, partially aboveground tanks, or tank trucks shall meet the requirements in 25 Pa. Code § 285.122 by building and maintaining a containment structure, which is designed to collect any spilled waste, and which is capable of holding a volume that does the following:

- a. Equals or exceeds the largest aboveground tank or tank truck volume.
  - b. Has reasonable allowance for precipitation based on local weather conditions.
3. A permittee may not store residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste for more than seven days.
  4. Loading/unloading of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste must be made through direct hose/pipe connections between the tanks and tankers. Any vents from the storage tanks or container must be designed and maintained to minimize and control odors.
  5. Residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste shall be stored in a manner that prevents harborage or breeding of vectors or release of odors, litter and other nuisances that are harmful to the environment or public health, or which create safety hazards, odors, dust, noise, unsightliness, and other public nuisances. Storage shall be in a manner that prevents dispersal of septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste by wind or water erosion or a risk of fire or explosion. The tank shall be leak-proof and shall have sufficient shell strength to ensure that it does not collapse or rupture when the septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste is placed in the tank.
  6. The processing of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste shall not be:
    - a. In the 100-year floodplain of waters of this Commonwealth;
    - b. In, or within 300 feet of, an exceptional value wetland;
    - c. In, or within 100 feet of, a wetland other than an exceptional value wetland;
    - d. Within 100 feet of a sinkhole or area draining into a sinkhole;
    - e. Within 900 feet measured horizontally from an occupied dwelling unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 900 feet;
    - f. Within 50 feet of a property line unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 50 feet;
    - g. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream;
    - h. Within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.

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- i. within 300 yards of a building which is owned by a school district or school and used for instructional purposes, a park, or a playground.
7. The access road to the facility shall be paved or surfaced with asphalt, gravel, cinder, or equivalent material and be capable of withstanding the load limits. The access road shall be maintained to control dust and to prevent or control the tracking of mud on-site or offsite.
8. 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 the permit states otherwise, the permittee shall operate as described in the approved application.
9. 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 regulations, providing that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. § 6018.101 et seq., and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. § 4000.101 et. seq.
10. 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 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 Sections 608 and 610(7) of the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. Sections 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 (SWMA).
11. Any failure of the design, equipment, and/or methods herein approved to perform as intended, or as designed, or any failure to comply with the applicable laws, rules and regulations, and terms and conditions of this permit shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the permittee's approval to operate under this permit.
12. 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.
13. The activities authorized under this permit shall be subject to prior compliance history review by the Department as specified by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980.
14. 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

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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.

15. 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.
16. The permittee shall maintain in force and affect a general liability insurance policy and a bond in sufficient guarantees in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter D (relating to bonding and insurance requirements) to provide continuous coverage during operation of the facility and until the Department issues a final closure certification.
17. Equipment used for the storage of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste shall be maintained in good operating condition. Daily 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.
18. Storage of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste by the permittee shall be in a manner that complies with the requirements set forth in 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 285 (relating to storage, collection, and transportation of municipal waste).
19. The residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge and restaurant grease trap waste 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 § 271.1.
20. Copy of a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency (PPC) plan, that is consistent with the Department's most recent guidelines, shall be maintained at each facility and updated at least every 5 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.
21. 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.
22. 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).

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23. Upon cessation of operations at the facilities operating under the authorization granted in this permit, the operator shall clean and/or remove any municipal and residual waste, storage tanks and structures or other materials that contain or have been contaminated with municipal or residual waste and shall provide for the processing and disposal of the waste or material in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, other environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
24. The permittee must ensure that no reclaimed water is transferred and beneficially used until approval, if and to the extent required, is obtained from the applicable river basin commission. The treated effluent must meet all discharge requirements set forth by the commission, if applicable, prior to the reclaimed water being transferred or beneficially used.
25. The permittee shall not bypass any steps in the treatment process that generates treated effluent, which may become reclaimed water that is transferred for beneficial use. The treated effluent must undergo the complete treatment process before reclaimed water is transferred for beneficial use.
26. The permittee must ensure that any treated effluent meets all applicable NPDES permit conditions prior to transfer at the delivery point of the reclaimed water for beneficial use.
27. Prior to discharging treated effluent to a permitted wastewater treatment plant, the permittee must obtain authorization from the permitted wastewater treatment facility to receive the discharged effluent from the permittee.
28. The end user electric generating facility receiving the reclaimed water may not discharge any such reclaimed water except in compliance with an NPDES permit or other water quality discharge permit authorizing such discharge.
29. 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.
30. No processing or beneficial use activities shall commence at the facility unless approved, in writing, by the Department. Upon completion of construction activities at the site, Department Form 37 (certification of facility construction activity) shall be completed and submitted to the Department to certify that the facility has been constructed, and prepared in accordance with the documents, statements, designs, and plans submitted as part of the application as approved by the Department.

### **D. Recordkeeping:**

1. The following records shall be retained by the permittee and shall be available to the Department upon request: records identifying amount of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste delivered to the facility; records of inspections of incoming residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and

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restaurant grease trap waste, unless the septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste is delivered by the operator; amounts of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, and restaurant grease trap waste shipped off-site, and names and addresses of wastewater treatment plants or processing facilities to which the septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste was shipped; and records of odor or other nuisance complaints. These records shall be retained by the permittee, at the facility, for a minimum of 5 years from the date of execution of each record.

- a. For each day, the total volume of treated effluent the operation of the wastewater treatment facility sent to the facility for beneficial use.
- b. For each day, the identity and location of each electric generating facility receiving reclaimed water and the volume of reclaimed water transferred to such electric generating facility.
- c. The results of any sampling and monitoring of the treated effluent generated by the wastewater treatment facility.

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.

### **E. Reporting:**

Any person who operates under the provisions of this permit shall 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, operators, and/or responsible officials of the company; the location of facilities; compliance status; land ownership and the right to enter and operate sites operated by the permittee; and the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts.

### **F. Renewal:**

A generator or supplier 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 to the appropriate Department 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),

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4. Form 27M (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions), and
5. 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."

A copy of the renewal application shall also be sent to 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.



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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