



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

**BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL and RESIDUAL WASTE**

**GENERAL PERMIT WMGM051**

**PROCESSING OF RESIDENTIAL SEPTAGE, MUNICIPAL WASTE  
SEWAGE SLUDGE OR RESTAURANT GREASE TRAP WASTE  
FOR BENEFICIAL USE**

**Issued: October 10, 2024**

**Expires: October 10, 2034**

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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 process residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge or restaurant grease trap waste 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 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 aboveground tanks shall, at a minimum, meet the requirement in 25 Pa. Code, § 285.122. A permittee storing residential septage, municipal waste

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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 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 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.
7. The permittee shall not bypass any steps in the treatment process that generate 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.
8. 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.

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9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The processing of residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or restaurant grease trap waste shall not be:
  - a. within 100 feet of a perennial stream;
  - b. within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland;
  - c. within 100 feet of, a wetland other than an exceptional value wetland;
  - d. within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet;
  - e. within 100 feet of a sinkhole or area draining into a sinkhole;
  - f. 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;
  - g. within 50 feet of a property line unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 50 feet;
  - h. within the 100-year floodplain of a water of this Commonwealth.
  - 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.
14. Upon cessation of permitted operations at the facility, the permittee shall assure removal of all wastes and provide for the processing, recycling, beneficial use,

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or disposal of wastes in accordance with the SWMA, the environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

15. The permittee shall develop and implement a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (PPC) that is consistent with the Department's most recent guidelines.
16. 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.
17. 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 (SWMA), 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101—6018.1001.
18. 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).
19. 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 SWMA, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101—6018.1001; and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §§4000.101, et seq.
20. 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.
21. 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.

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22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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 beginning operations at the facility, the operator must obtain all necessary storm water management permits.
26. The permittee shall maintain in force and affect a general liability insurance policy in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 287, Subchapter E (relating to bonding and insurance requirements) to provide continuous coverage during operation of the facility and until the Department issues a final closure certification.
27. Equipment used for the processing and 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.
28. 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 299 (relating to storage and transportation of residual waste).
29. The residential septage, municipal waste sewage sludge, or 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 § 287.1.
30. 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.

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**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.
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. 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 permittee shall identify and 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.

**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

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preceding calendar year. This report shall include the information required by Conditions D.1., D.2., and D.3.

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.

**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 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, if applicable.

Additionally, a renewal application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20 must be sent to the appropriate DEP 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 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