



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL and RESIDUAL WASTE

GENERAL PERMIT WMGR126

**PROCESSING OF SILVER BEARING FILMS AND SLUDGES
PRIOR TO SILVER RECLAMATION AND PLASTIC RECYCLING**

Issued: June 17, 2021

Expires: June 17, 2031

PROCESSING OF SILVER BEARING FILMS AND SLUDGES

A. Description:

1. This general permit authorizes the processing of silver bearing films and sludges ("waste") prior to further silver reclamation and plastic recycling.
2. The approved processing is limited to granulation, film washing using sodium hydroxide or enzymes and surfactants, flocculation, filtration, and calcining.

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 of Environmental Protection (DEP) Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A completed application on forms provided by DEP along with the application fee for a DOA must be submitted to the appropriate DEP Regional Office. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania". No activities shall commence unless approved, in writing, by DEP.

C. Operating Conditions:

1. Waste shall not be processed under this permit unless the silver content is at least 0.05 mg/kg. Sludge shall not be processed under this permit unless its pH is between 2.5 and 12.5. Should an individual sample of a waste fall outside these limits, the waste may be re-sampled, and the waste analysis determination may be based on the 90 percent upper confidence level for each constituent using Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste (EPA SW-846) as guidance for the statistical treatment of data.
2. Prior to receiving any waste from a new source at the permitted area, the permittee shall obtain a profile of the waste from the generator. At a minimum, this profile shall include a description of the waste, the location of the site of generation, and the quantity to be shipped.
3. Prior to off-loading any shipment of waste, the permittee shall visually inspect each load and prepare a representative sample. Samples shall be analyzed for the appropriate parameters in Condition C.1. to demonstrate the waste is acceptable for processing. Should the load appear inconsistent with the description in the waste profile, be a significantly different quantity, or fall outside the limits in Condition C.1., the load shall be rejected. The permittee shall ensure rejected loads are either returned to their site of origin or transported to a facility approved to manage the waste.

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4. The waste managed under this general permit shall not be hazardous waste.
5. A facility operating under this general permit shall not be located:
 - a. Within 300 yards of a building owned by a school district or parochial school used for instructional purposes, existing prior to the date the Department received an administratively complete application, unless a written waiver is obtained from the current property owner of the school.
 - b. Within 300 yards of a park or playground, existing prior to the date the Department received an administratively complete application, unless a written waiver is obtained from the current property owner of the park.
 - c. In a 100-year flood plain of water of this Commonwealth, unless the Department approves, in writing, 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).
 - d. Within 300 feet measured horizontally from an occupied dwelling unless the owner of the dwelling has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.
 - e. Within 50 feet of a property line unless the permittee demonstrates that the actual processing of waste is not occurring within that distance, or the owners of the adjacent property has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 50 feet.
 - f. Within 100 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream, unless storage and processing will not occur within that distance.
 - g. Within 300 feet of a water source.
 - h. Within 4 feet of a seasonal high-water table.
 - i. In or within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland.
6. Upon cessation of permitted operations at the facility, the permittee shall assure remove 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.
7. 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.

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8. The permittee shall develop and implement a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (PPC) that is consistent with the Department's most recent guidelines.
9. 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 its facilities covered by the general permit as described in the approved application.
10. 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).
11. 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—6018.1001; and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §§4000.101, et seq.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Failure of the measures herein approved to perform as intended, or as designed, or in compliance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations and terms and

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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.

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Best Management Practices shall be implemented to divert storm water run-on from the storage area(s). 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.
19. 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.
20. The permittee shall maintain a bond in an amount and with sufficient guarantees acceptable to the Department as provided by 25 Pa. Code 287, Subchapter E (Bonding and Insurance Requirements). The bond shall continue in effect for the operational life of the facility, and for up to 10 years after final closure of the facility, unless released in whole or in part by the Department, in writing.
21. Equipment used for the processing or storage of waste authorized under this general permit shall be maintained in good operating condition. Daily inspections of each processing or 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.

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22. During periods of extended equipment failure or shutdown, waste may be stored for no more than 90 days from the time the equipment failure or shutdown occurred.
23. Residues from processing shall not be stored onsite for more than 90 days from the date of generation.
24. Storage of waste authorized under this general permit shall be in tanks in a manner that complies with the requirements set forth in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 299 (relating to storage and transportation of residual waste). No storage of raw waste shall occur outdoors. Residues from processing shall be stored and managed in tanks in a manner that complies with 25 Pa. Code Chapter 299 or 40 CFR Part 262, as incorporated by reference at 25 Pa. Code 262a.10, whichever is applicable.
25. All storage tanks, processing equipment, and transfer lines shall be set up and operated in a manner that prevents spills, leaks, or other releases.
26. The waste authorized under this general permit shall not be mixed with other types of solid wastes, including hazardous waste, municipal waste, other residual waste, or special handling waste, as the terms are defined in 25 Pa. Code § 287.1.
27. 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.
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

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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.

E. Reporting Requirements:

1. Any person that operates under the provisions of this permit shall immediately notify the appropriate Department Regional Office via certified mail of any changes in: the company name, address, owners, operators and responsible officials; bonding and insurance status; land ownership and the right to enter and operate on any land occupied by a facility; the system used to process waste; 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 contain a summary of all the information required in Conditions C.3., D.1. and D.2., and, if applicable, updated bonding calculations in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 287, Subchapter E. Records, reports or other information submitted to the Department under this permit shall be available to the public or treated as confidential as prescribed by 25 Pa. Code 287.5.
3. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department's Emergency Hotline by telephone at 800-541-2050 and the appropriate DEP regional staff in the event of a discharge or spill of waste or manufactured fuel and shall take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment.

F. Renewal:

A person or municipality that plans to continue the beneficial use of residual waste 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 application for renewal must be submitted to the same Department office where the permittee's original application for this general permit or determination of applicability was submitted.

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 27R (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions), and
5. Bonding Calculation Worksheets, and
6. Renewal 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 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