

POLICY

UTILIZATION AND STORAGE OF CLASS B SEWAGE SLUDGE AT MUNICIPAL LANDFILLS

August 8, 2001

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Basis Statement

Several Municipalities have successfully land applied sewage sludge on landfill caps to promote vegetative growth. This accomplishes three goals simultaneously: sparse vegetation is enhanced by available nutrients, municipal treatment plants are provided with an alternate utilization site, and finally, municipal officials are encouraged to visually inspect their landfill caps on an annual basis.

Utilization Program-Introduction

The agronomic use of sewage sludge as a fertilizer is regulated by the Division of Solid Waste Facilities Regulation-Sludge and Residuals Utilization Unit, under Chapter 419, "Agronomic Utilization of Residuals". Under this program, sewage sludge generators make application to the Department to utilize their product as a nutrient fertilizer for agricultural crop production. As part of their application process, the generator tests the quality of the sludge for nutrients, heavy metals, and other pollutants. Once the material has been tested and found suitable for agronomic use by the Department, individual sites licensed for use. Three basic factors are assessed before approval. First, site soils are investigated to determine: soils type, drainage class, minimum depth to bedrock and minimum depth to seasonal highwater table. The next step involves determination of the nutrient needs of the desired crop to be grown so that healthy crops can be grown and excess nutrients are not lost groundwater or surfacewater. Finally, site setbacks to residences, water supply wells and water bodies (streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, etc.) are established. Utilization sites often include temporary stockpile areas where sludge is stored before use.

Utilization of Class B Materials On Municipal Landfills

The licensing of municipal landfill sites for agronomic utilization of Class B materials will continue to be conducted under the provisions of Chapter 419, "Agronomic Utilization of Residuals", and in cooperation with the Division of Remediation's Landfill Closure Unit. If applicants want to land apply sewage sludge to landfill caps, they will need to include documentation indicating that the landfill closure was approved by the Department, or met

closure standards set by the Department, as identified in 38 MRSA, Section 1310 (E) at a minimum, can provide a plan that the Department would approve. Also, if there are groundwater monitoring wells in place, the applicant must, if necessary, modify any existing monitoring plan to include a nitrogen species analysis. Specific loading rates will be calculated based upon crop requirements, considering the current vegetative cover. If the cover is sparse, the application rate may be reduced from the full agronomic rate until cover is well established. No sludge may be stockpiled on the landfill cap, due to the potential damage, to the cap, that may occur from increased traffic on the cap surface. Permanent stockpile sites adjacent to the site will be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis. Applicants will be required to inspect the landfill cap on an annual basis. Cracks, ruts, eroded areas, or other obvious damage must be immediately repaired and re-vegetated. Use of machinery other than standard farm tractors, bailers and manure spreaders will need to be approved on a case by case basis to ensure that the landfill cap is not adversely impacted. Vehicle traffic on the cap must be kept to the minimum necessary to accomplish spreading and inspection/repair activities. Finally, the applicant will be required to remove the vegetative crop at least twice during the growing season and the site must provide for restricted public access.

If you are interested in exercising this option, contact your local sewage treatment plant or contact the following individuals closest to you.

DEP Landfill Closure Group	Location	Phone
Ted Wolfe, Unit Supervisor	Augusta	287-8552
Bob Birk	Augusta	287-8551
DEP Sludge And Residuals Unit	Location	Phone
David Wright, Unit Supervisor	Augusta	287-7676
Mark King	Augusta	287-2430
Jim Pollock	Augusta	287-7816
Rick Haffner	Bangor	941-4331
Roger Johnstone	Bangor	561-5020
Mike Clark	Portland	833-6341
Jay Duncan	Presque-Isle	764-0477