

# Notice of Information Meeting –June 8, 2010

## Information Meeting about Nature's Needs Composting Facility

DEQ invites you to an information meeting about the Nature's Needs composting facility. DEQ staff will share information about the Nature's Needs food waste composting demonstration project and the status of its DEQ composting permit application. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

**Notice issued:** May 7, 2010

### Meeting details:

Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Jessie Mays Community Center  
30975 NW Hillcrest St  
North Plains, OR 97133

### DEQ's Role

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. DEQ issues permits to regulate the management and disposal of wastes at a regulated facility.

### Where can I get background information?

To schedule a file review, contact:

Holly Pence, Solid Waste Permit Coordinator  
2120 SW 4th Ave, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201

503-229-5353 or Toll Free (800) 452-4011

[Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Pence.Holly@deq.state.or.us)

Fax: 503-229-6945

Refer to "Nature's Needs Solid Waste Letter of Authorization."

For technical information:

Stephanie Rawson

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Portland, Oregon 97201

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[Rawson.Stephanie@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Rawson.Stephanie@deq.state.or.us)

### Who is the applicant?

Recology Oregon Compost, Inc.

235 N. 1st Street

Dixon, CA 95620

### Where is the facility located?

9570 NW 307<sup>th</sup> Avenue

North Plains, Oregon 97133

### Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

### What does Nature's Needs do that affects land quality?

Nature's Needs accepts and composts yard debris, wood wastes and some vegetative food wastes. Under a DEQ solid waste letter of authorization issued April 23, 2010 and a Washington County franchise agreement, Nature's Needs will be accepting and composting food wastes including meat and dairy wastes for a food waste composting demonstration project.

DEQ has determined that the plans the facility submitted to carry out this project describe methods that are adequately protective of human health and the environment. DEQ will inspect Nature's Needs periodically to determine compliance with its solid waste letter of authorization and associated plans. The information DEQ receives during inspections, the facility's response to complaints, and the Washington County franchise agreement will be the basis for DEQ determining whether the project will be expanded.

The primary composting method Nature's Needs uses is a tarp-type in-vessel system. This method uses a non-woven synthetic polypropylene tarp to cover heaped up rows of compost. The tarps will be securely anchored down. Air will be forced through the compost piles to a biofilter. The biofilter consists of organic material such as wood chips or compost pieces too big to compost.

Nature's Needs will remove the tarps for turning and watering, as needed, and replace them over the compost rows until the materials are adequately composted. Nature's Needs will remove the tarps after approximately two to three weeks.

The facility will monitor composting materials for moisture, temperature, oxygen and other factors to achieve suitable composting conditions and to meet pathogen reduction requirements.

If not conducted properly, composting operations can potentially damage groundwater or stream



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Northwest Region Solid Waste Program

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By: Holly Pence

water quality. They can also create nuisance odors or problems with rodents or insects.

### **What legal requirements apply?**

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 459 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Divisions 93 through 97 give DEQ the authority to issue permits.

### **How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?**

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of wastes managed and the location of the facility. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

### **What other DEQ permits are required?**

The facility also has a DEQ National Pollution Discharge Elimination System 1200-Z stormwater permit.

### **Compliance history:**

Ownership of the facility has changed several times. East County Recycling operated the facility from 1999 to August 2007. Pacific Land Clearing was the operator August 2007 to April 2009. Recology Oregon Compost has been the operator since then.

There are no enforcement actions in process at this time. Past violations include:

- February 2007 – DEQ issued a Notice of Non-Compliance to East County Recycling for failing to abide by a condition of its stormwater permit; specifically for failing to collect monitoring data.
- July 2007 – DEQ issued a Pre-Enforcement Notice to East County Recycling for failing to collect monitoring data required by its stormwater permit. This action resulted in a civil penalty assessment.
- March 2009 – DEQ issued a Pre-Enforcement Notice to Pacific Land Clearing for failing to collect monitoring data required by its stormwater permit. This action resulted in a civil penalty assessment.

DEQ records contain a total of 122 complaints related to the facility from 2001 until Recology took over. After Recology Oregon Compost's acquisition of the facility in April 2009, DEQ received 13 complaints of offensive odors. These complaints occurred in June, July, August, and December of 2009. Recology documented

their investigation and resolution of these issues. There have been no reported complaints in 2010.

### **What activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?**

Nature's Needs is situated at the southeast corner of the city of North Plains. The immediate vicinity of the 66-acre site is occupied mostly by farmland. US Hwy 26W borders the site on the southwest.

### **What other information about this company is related to this permit?**

Recology Oregon Compost, Inc. is a subsidiary of Recology, Inc., headquartered in Dixon, California. In Oregon, the company owns and operates two composting facilities, two material recovery facilities, and a yard debris and wood waste recycling yard. These facilities include Nature's Needs in North Plains, Compost Oregon in Aumsville, Suttle Road and Foster Road material recovery facilities in Portland, and Oregon City recycling facility. Recology is also the contracted operator for the Metro Central Transfer Station in Portland.

In addition to Recology's operations in Oregon, Recology operates four composting facilities, three landfills, and many garbage collection companies in California. Recology was formerly known as Norcal Waste, Inc.

Recology Oregon Compost leases the Nature's Needs property, which is owned by Sunset Mill Investors LLC. The facility is authorized to operate under an approved Washington County Conditional Use Permit.

### **What happens next?**

Following the meeting, DEQ will begin to draft the proposed composting permit. Public comments will be reviewed and considered during this process. Upon completion of the draft permit, DEQ will issue a public notice requesting formal oral and written comments concerning the conditions in the proposed permit.

### **Accessibility information**

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach at (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to (503) 229-6762; or e-mail to [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us). TTY users, please call 7-1-1

