

Notice of Public Hearing – October 25, 2007

Proposed Batz and Lone Oak Biosolids Site Authorizations, and Batz Barn Storage Authorization for City of Salem

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to make oral comments on the proposed Biosolids Site Authorizations and Storage Authorization at a public hearing. You may also comment in writing.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 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.

Hearing details: October 25, 2007

Information session begins at 6 p.m. with formal hearing to follow:
Walker Middle School, Media Center
1075 8th St. NW
Salem, OR 97304

Comments due:

Written comments due: 5 p.m., November 5, 2007

Where can I send my comments?

Jennifer Claussen, Permit Coordinator
Phone: (503) 378-5055 or (800) 349-7677
750 Front St. NE, Ste. 120
Salem, OR 97301-1039
Fax: (503) 373-7944
Email: claussen.jennifer@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Paul Kennedy, Western Region Biosolids Coordinator
(541) 440-3338 ext. 228 or (800) 452-4011
725 SE Main
Roseburg, OR 97470
Fax: (541) 440-3396
Email: kennedy.paul@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get background information?

Information about this project is viewable online by clicking the following links:

- [City of Salem Annual Report](#) PDF (5MB)
- [City of Salem 2007 Biosolids Management Plan Addition](#) PDF

You can review hard copies of related documents at the nearest DEQ office in Salem. For a review appointment, call Jennifer Claussen at (503) 378-5055.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to approve the City of Salem's future potential biosolid land application sites and storage at the Batz and Lone Oak site near Hopewell, Oregon.

The Site authorization letters are part of the City's Biosolid Management Plan which is part the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Who is the applicant?

City of Salem
Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant
5915 Windsor Island Road North
Salem, OR 97303-6197

Where is the facility located?

5915 Windsor Island Road North
Salem, OR 97303-6197

Who might have an interest?

The proposed site authorization and storage actions may affect property owners in the vicinity of the land application site and the treatment facility and residents who are or will be served by the wastewater facilities.

What does this proposed Biosolids Site Authorizations and Storage Authorization do that affects public health and the environment?

When operated in accordance with the NPDES permit, applications of wastewater treatment facility biosolids will not have any significant health effects or environmental impacts.

- Bacteria and other human pathogens are present in untreated sewage, but treatment reduces the bacteria concentrations to levels considered safe by the federal government for this use. Bacteria levels will be monitored regularly to ensure the levels remain below the federally required threshold.
- Several metals at low concentrations are also often found in domestic sewage. A portion of the metals are removed in the treatment process and may accumulate in the biosolids. In order to land apply the biosolids, these metals must be below federally required levels. The permit requires monitoring to ensure that the level of metals remains below the federally required level.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Western Region
Water Quality
750 Front St. NE, Suite
120, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 378-8240
Fax: (503) 373-7944
Toll-Free (800) 349-7677

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Notice Issued: 9/14/2007
By: Jennifer Claussen

What legal requirements apply?

Per OAR 340-045-0027(1)(c) and (C); Public Notice and Participation Requirements For Permitting Actions.

How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the Biosolids Management Plan?

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of wastewater discharged 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.

An examination of the compliance history and a biosolid source file review indicates that the permittee will have little difficulty meeting the EPA 40 CFR Part 503, Class B Biosolid criteria.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances stored, disposed of, discharged or emitted by the facility?

There are no known impacts to public health and the environment when biosolid is land applied according to the EPA's 40 CFR Part 503 Biosolid regulations.

How are the permitted substances measured?

Schedule B of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to monitor and record biosolid parameters at specified minimum frequencies. Monitoring must be performed in accordance with federal regulations (40 CFR Part 136 and 503) unless otherwise specified in the permit.

Compliance history:

The City of Salem owns and operates a secondary wastewater treatment facility that serves the greater Salem area. The existing treatment facility utilizes activated sludge technology to provide secondary treatment. Primary sludge undergoes anaerobic digestion in digesters. Digested sludge is thickened by belt filter presses and/or a centrifuge, at times stored in large covered barns and beneficially land applied on farm fields. Processed sludge is land applied for the most part as biosolids for beneficial use on farm land during dry weather months.

A biosolids management plan was submitted to the Department and approved on January 9, 1991. During the City of Salem's 2004 NPDES permit renewal process the Department received, reviewed and updated the City's Biosolids Management Plan (July 12, 2004). The City has made application to beneficially land apply Class

B biosolid on two grass seed fields (Batz and Lone Oak) both near Hopewell, Oregon. The city is also proposing to store Class B biosolid during the winter in a covered barn on the Batz site. These proposed authorizations if approved would become part of the Biosolid Management Plan under OAR 340050-0030(3).

This facility was visited several times in 2006-2007, for biosolid program operations and was found to be operating in compliance with their NPDES permit and Biosolid Management Plan. For the land application, the permittee must monitor land application and agronomic loadings of all biosolid. Permittee must maintain daily site logs of all biosolid land and report a summary to the Department of their land application activities for the year.

What are the special conditions of this biosolid site and storage authorizations?

The proposed authorizations include plans and requirements for the storage and land application of biosolids on farm fields near Hopewell, OR.

What similar activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?

The cities of Albany, Corvallis and Eugene have similar wastewater facilities that allow land application of biosolids. No nearby facilities are participating in EPA's Environmental Management System national program.

What other DEQ permits are required?

None

What happens after the hearing?

After the comment period closes, DEQ will consider and provide responses to all comments received. DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed permit, but the permit writers can only modify conditions of the permit in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ. Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if a facility meets all legal requirements, DEQ will approve the plan.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities at our hearings. 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 (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. People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY (503) 378-3684.