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BIOCYCLE

ADVANCING COMPOSTING, ORGANICS RECYCLING & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Regional Roundup

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Wilmington, Delaware

DELIVERIES START AT COMPOSTING PLANT

The 27-acre Wilmington Organic Recycling Center, owned and operated by Peninsula Compost Company, LLC, opened for business in

early December. When operating at full-scale, the 500 tons/day plant will be one of the largest source separated organics composting facilities in the U.S. "We started taking materials right after Thanksgiving weekend," says Nelson Widell of Peninsula Compost. "We will be taking about 150 tons/day until everyone is trained and all systems are working. We have four windrows formed now and temperatures are ranging in the 150°F to 160°F level which is very good." The facility is using the GORE covered composting technology. The receiving and preprocessing areas are fully enclosed.

Tallahassee, Florida

PROPOSED BIOSOLIDS RULE REVISIONS COULD DETER COMPOSTING

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) proposed 62-640 Biosolids Management Rule could present a significant regulatory and financial barrier to the production, distribution and marketing of biosolids compost in the state of Florida, according to Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) in Tampa. Proposed language in Chapter 62-640.850 requires that all Class AA biosolids and biosolids products must be licensed and registered as a fertilizer in accordance with Chapter 576 FD and Chapter 5E-1 FAC (Florida's Commercial Fertilizer Law). Biosolids compost will be subjected to an inspection fee of \$1.50/ton. FDEP has proposed the fertilizer requirements as a way to limit nitrogen and phosphorus from biosolids contaminating surface or ground water.

"The fertilizer inspection fee also places an unfair economic burden on biosolids compost versus other biosolids," says Mitch Kessler. "Compost is made with a bulking agent that contributes significantly to the final weight of compost. Compost has comparatively high moisture content and low nutrient content. These factors mean that biosolids compost is subject to a much higher fee per dry ton of nutrient than other biosolids — without considering the fact that those nutrients are in a form and product that actually reduces surface and ground water contamination. Consequently, KCI has concluded that Class AA biosolids compost should be exempt from the fertilizer registration requirement."

Status on the biosolids rule adoption can be found online at:

www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/dom/resmake.htm. The rule adoption is expected to take place in January 2010. Questions or comments can be sent to Maurice Barker of the FDEP, maurice.barker@dep.state.fl.us.

Madison, Wisconsin

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER GRANTS

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, announced grant awards totaling more than \$2.6 million to help businesses statewide finance the installation of large renewable energy systems. Funds were awarded on a competitive basis to help eligible businesses become more energy independent. Grants were given to the following dairy manure digester projects: Dairy Dreams LLC in Casco, a 3,000 head dairy operation, was awarded \$434,477 to install an 800 kW anaerobic digester energy system. Clear Horizons LLC in Sun Prairie received \$500,000 to complete a 1,137 kW anaerobic digester energy system. Clear Horizons will own the system; however, it will be located at Mauneha River Dairy, a 1,000 head dairy operation. PPC Partners Inc. in Plymouth was awarded \$500,000 to complete a 1,137 kW anaerobic digester energy system. PPC Partners will own the system that will be located at Goeser Dairy LLC, a 1,000 head dairy operation.

In the municipal sector, the City of Sheboygan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was awarded \$205,920 to install a biogas maximization system. It has been successfully operating 300 kW microturbines for nearly four years (see "High-Strength Wastes Boost Biogas Production," March 2009). The new system will increase the gas production of the existing anaerobic digester from 30 percent to

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