

Merrimack Wastewater Facility Compost Operational Controls Authorization for Utilization of Composted Biosolids				
COC-F 2.1	Revision – 01	Approval Signature	06/13/2001 Date of Approval	Page 4 of 6

## Town of Merrimack, NH Wastewater Treatment Facility Authorization for Utilization of Composted Biosolids

In February 1993 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated new regulations governing sewage sludge or biosolids. A provision in the rule allows for biosolids (compost) that meet stringent parameters for heavy metals and pathogens (disease causing organisms) to be distributed with no restrictions on its use. Merrimack compost consistently meets these "clean biosolids" requirements. As such, Merrimack compost can be used as you would any commercially available fertilizer.

The Applicant agrees to accept full responsibility for any damages, physical or health or other, directly or indirectly caused by the picking up or utilization of composted/stabilized biosolids and will in no way hold the Town of Merrimack or its agents responsible for any and all consequences of access to or use of said composted/stabilized sewage biosolids. The Applicant agrees that in the event a third party makes a claim against the Town of Merrimack as a consequence of the use the Applicant makes of the sewage biosolids, the Applicant will indemnify, defend and save harmless the Town of Merrimack for any damages arising out of said claim and shall pay all defense costs.

### I. General Information

Sludge is the end-product of the Town's wastewater treatment process and is transformed into compost by the following method:

1. Liquid biosolids are dewatered to an average of 20% solids.
2. The 20% raw biosolids is then mixed with a bulking agent such as sawdust at a ratio of 2:1.
3. The rough mix is then loaded into as many of the 15 cement bays as is needed for the days biosolids production. Each bay is 6'W X 6'H X 220'L.
4. A machine (roto-blender) riding on rails above the bays moves and blends the mixture down the bays 12 feet per days. At the end of 21 days, finished compost is discharged and is ready for sale or for giveaway to Town residents.
5. During the composting process, air is introduced into the bays by computer controlled blowers. Temperatures are monitored at several points in each bay to insure that the minimum required temperatures are met, (55°C or 131°F for three consecutive days).
6. Finished compost is then analyzed for heavy metals, nitrogen content, and pathogen reduction. All information is available for the public inspection and is reported to EPA.

(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

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Date of Approval

Page 5 of 6

## II. Landscape Utilization

Compost is extremely useful for turf grass establishment. Incorporation of compost in soils before seeding grass improves the soils organic content, improves growth, and supplies a limited amount of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. A half-and-half blend of compost and sub-soil generally quickens seed germination and needs less water, fertilizer, and lime. Other uses include flowerbeds, as an additive for shrubs and trees, and for top dressing existing lawns.

**[If you have any questions, please call the Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility at 883-8196]**

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Name of Hauler if other than Applicant

Address

Location of Compost Disposal Site

Signature of Applicant

Date

Telephone

# of Tickets	@ Yards	= Total	

Label: \_\_\_\_\_



# Requirements For the Use of Sludge-Based, Class A Biosolids

June 16, 2005

Any person who intends to use compost or other class A biosolids derived from municipal wastewater sludge must use such material in accordance with the requirements of rules adopted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services under Env-Ws 810. The rules are few and simple to follow for those wishing to utilize class A products to establish a new landscape or to enhance an existing one. For those who choose to use class A materials on a broader scale, such as blending topsoil for sale, or in agricultural settings where the area exceeds 5 acres, there are additional requirements. Below are the rules that must be observed when using class A biosolids derived from sludge:

- The rate of application should not exceed the rate recommended on the label provided with the class A biosolids;
- Class A biosolids should not be applied within 35 feet of a pond, stream, lake, or river;
- Land application of Class A biosolids must comply with the requirements of RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Act. Specifically, applications should be setback 250 feet from a designated river and immediately incorporated within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of a designated river. For information on the Rivers Management and Protection Act see the DES website (<http://des.nh.gov/factsheets/r&l/rl-2.htm>).
- For a person(s) planning to use class A biosolids on a area of more than five acres or for topsoil blending or manufacturing, the following rules apply:
  - Stockpiles of stored biosolids should be maintained to minimize the amount of water running into and through the stockpile; and
  - A nutrient recommendation from UNH Cooperative Extension (Tom Buob, 787-6944) must be obtained and followed during application of the biosolids.

For additional information, please contact the Residuals Management Section of the Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-2818 or (603) 271-3503.