

CRITERIA FOR SITING A COMPOSTING FACILITY **Guidance Document**

Revised April 8, 1994

Legal Authority: Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4

Chapter 391-3-4-.16(1)(b): Any person involved in the composting of solid waste, other than yard trimmings, which is excluded for regulation as a solid waste handling facility, or a facility covered by a Permit-By-Rule, shall comply with the permit requirements for a solid waste handling facility.

Chapter 391-3-4-.05: Criteria for Siting for a site proposed as a solid waste handling facility.

Guidance: The following criteria from Chapter 391-3-4-.05 must be met for a composting facility.

1. A letter from the local government authority stating that the proposed site complies with local zoning and land use ordinances [Rule .05(1)(a)];
2. Demonstration that if the facility is to be located in the 100-year floodplain, it will not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the storage capacity of the floodplain, or result in a washout of solid waste [Rule.05(1)(d)];
3. Demonstration that the facility will not be located in wetlands or that the use of wetlands has been permitted [Rule .05(1)(e)];
4. A map of the topographic setting depicting features including all upstream and downstream drainage areas affecting or affected by the proposed site, floodplain, gullies, karst conditions, wetlands, unstable soils and percent slope [Rules .05(1)(k)(4)].

The need for hydrological assessment, as required by Rule .05(1)(k), and groundwater monitoring is dependent upon the types of waste to be composted and the nature of the operation. Facilities composting wastes which may contain hazardous constituents (e.g., household waste, industrial waste, and sewage sludge) in an outdoor setting will be required to have a groundwater monitoring system. Facilities composting such wastes in a totally enclosed setting will not. A facility composting wastes without measurable hazardous constituents, such as mixed yard trash and food wastes, would not need groundwater monitoring even if conducted in an outdoor setting. The need for chemical analysis of the composted end product would similarly be determined based on the potential for hazardous constituents to exist in the incoming waste stream.

A site assessment report addressing the criteria listed above shall be prepared by a geologist registered in Georgia or a geotechnical engineer registered in Georgia and submitted to the Environmental Protection Division for review at the time of submitting a permit application for the proposed composting facility.