

TECHNICAL EVALUATION

APPLICANT

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County
7501 North Jog Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33412

North County Regional Resource Recovery Facility
Facility ID No. 0990234

PROJECT

Project No. 0990234-030-AC
Exemption from Requirement to Obtain an Air Construction Permit and Authorization

Decommissioning of Compost Building 1 & the Associated Biofilter Unit; Replacement of Building 1 Biofilter Unit with a Mulch/Yard Waste Storage Pad
(Project)

COUNTY

Palm Beach County, Florida

PERMITTING AUTHORITY

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Resource Management
Office of Permitting and Compliance
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS#5505
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400



October 2013

1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1. Air Pollution Regulations

Projects at stationary sources with the potential to emit air pollution are subject to the applicable environmental laws specified in Section 403 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.). The statutes authorize the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) to establish regulations regarding air quality as part of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which includes the following applicable chapters: 62-4 (Permits); 62-204 (Air Pollution Control - General Provisions); 62-210 (Stationary Sources - General Requirements); 62-212 (Stationary Sources - Preconstruction Review); 62-213 (Operation Permits for Major Sources of Air Pollution); 62-296 (Stationary Sources - Emission Standards); and 62-297 (Stationary Sources - Emissions Monitoring). Specifically, air construction permits are required pursuant to Rules 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212, F.A.C.

In addition, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes air quality regulations in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Part 60 specifies New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for numerous industrial categories. Part 61 specifies National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) based on specific pollutants. Part 63 specifies NESHAP based on the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) for numerous industrial categories. The Department adopts these federal regulations on a quarterly basis in Rule 62-204.800, F.A.C.

1.2. Facility Description and Location

This facility is an existing municipal waste combustor plant categorized under Standard Industrial Classification No. 4953.

The existing North County Regional Resource Recovery Facility is located in Palm Beach County at 7501 North Jog Road in West Palm Beach, Florida. The UTM coordinates are Zone 17; 585.8 kilometers (km) East; 2960.2 km North.

This site is in an area that is in attainment (or designated as unclassifiable) for all air pollutants subject to state and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS).

1.3. Facility Regulatory Categories

- The facility is a major source of hazardous air pollutants (HAP).
- This facility does not operate units subject to the acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act.
- The facility is a Title V major source of air pollution in accordance with Chapter 213, F.A.C.
- The facility is a major stationary source in accordance with Rule 62-212.400, F.A.C. for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) of Air Quality.

1.4. Project Description

The applicant requested a case-by-case permitting exemption from an air construction (AC) permit (also referred to as a "Rule 62-4.040(1)(b), F.A.C. exemption") for the decommissioning of the Compost Building 1 & the associated Biofilter Unit and the replacement of the Building 1 Biofilter Unit with a mulch/yard waste storage pad (project).

The North County Regional Resource Recovery Facility operates under the current valid Title V air operation permit, Permit No. 0990234-022-AV, effective January 20, 2012. The Compost Building 1 & the associated Biofilter Unit are covered under the permit by item 4. "Composting Facility" in Appendix I, List of Insignificant Emissions Units and/or Activities. Additional insignificant activities/emission units not specifically listed in Appendix I are covered under item 12., provided they also meet the criteria of Rule 62-213.430(6)(b), F.A.C.

1.5. Application (Request) Processing Schedule

Request for Exemption from an Air Constitution (AC) Permit and Authorization received via email on October 11, 2013 (complete "application").

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Complete details of the proposed project are accessible via the Department's world wide web site at <http://appprod.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp> by entering the project number shown above.

1.6. Relevant Documents

- Permit No. 0990234-022-AV, Current Title V Air Operation Permit.
- Facility Plot Plan from Application for Permit No. 0990234-020-AV, Title V Air Operation Permit Renewal.

2. DEPARTMENT REVIEW

The applicant's October 11, 2013 letter describes the details of the project. The decommissioning of the Compost Building 1 & the associated Biofilter Unit and the replacement of the Building 1 Biofilter Unit with a mulch/yard waste storage pad (project) involves physical work. The applicant indicated that the area of the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad is approximately 17,544 ft² [258 ft x 68 ft = 17,544 ft²].

Air pollutant emissions from the present compost building may include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and sulfur compounds which are potential sources of odors. With the decommissioning of the Compost Building 1 & the associated Biofilter Unit these emissions will no longer occur.

New air pollutant emissions may be from the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad. New air pollutant emissions may be in the form of fugitive dust or particulate matter (PM) emissions. Quantification of emissions from the mulch/yard waste storage pad was not provided in the request, yet similar mulch/yard waste storage operations at municipal waste combustion facilities can be reviewed easily. Mulch/yard waste storage operations in other municipal waste combustion facility Title V air operation permits have been treated as being insignificant activities/emission units (see Facility ID Number 0570261 for the Hillsborough County RRF and Facility ID Number 0250348 for the Miami-Dade RRF [Link to Projects](#)). PM emissions from the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad could also be expected to be similar to the fugitive dust or PM emissions from the "Woody Waste Recycling Facility" insignificant activities/emission unit at the North County Regional Resource Recovery Facility, see item 7. in the Appendix I of the Title V air operation permit. Based on the plot plan from the application for the Title V air operation permit renewal (Permit No. 0990234-020-AV) the estimated area of the entire footprint of the Woody Waste Recycling Facility is about 250,000 ft² which is about 14 times larger than the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad's area. Therefore, the fugitive dust or PM emissions from the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad are expected to be below the insignificance threshold levels contained in Rule 62-213.430(6)(b), F.A.C.

The mulch/yard waste storage pad does not appear to be subject to any unit-specific applicable requirement. Therefore, no revision to the Title V air operation permit or Appendix I is required; the applicant's notification was only required. The applicant will be required to address and include the new proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad in the next Title V air operation permit renewal application where appropriate.

As mentioned previously, quantification of the air pollutant emissions from the mulch/yard waste storage pad was not provided in the request. When emissions from a proposed project are considered to be below those threshold levels in Rule 62-210.300(b)1., F.A.C., an activity automatically qualifies as being categorically exempt from an AC permit by this Department rule. Note, the threshold levels in Rule 62-210.300(b)1., F.A.C. for exemption from an AC permit are the same as the insignificance threshold levels in Rule 62-213.430(6)(b), F.A.C.

In conclusion, review of similar mulch/yard waste storage operations at other municipal waste combustion facilities and a review of a similar fugitive PM operation indicate that emissions should be below the cited threshold levels. Even if the PM emissions from the proposed mulch/yard waste storage pad are at or not too much above the cited threshold levels, the mulch/yard waste storage operations would still likely be treated as an 'unregulated' emissions unit which is an emissions unit with no unit-specific applicable requirements applying.

The applicant made a specific request for a written determination. Based on the information in the applicant's October 11, 2013 letter and the Department's review, the proposed work (project) is deemed to be categorically exempt from an air constitution (AC) permit.

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3. DETERMINATION

Pursuant to Rule 62-4.040(1)(b), F.A.C. and for the reasons stated in this Technical Evaluation, the Office of Permitting and Compliance hereby determines that the proposed activity (project) will not emit air pollutants “... *in sufficient quantity, with respect to its character, quality or content, and the circumstances surrounding its location, use and operation, as to contribute significantly to the pollution problems within the State, so that the regulation thereof is not reasonably justified.*” Therefore, the project is exempt from the requirement to obtain an AC permit.

This determination may be revoked if the proposed activity is substantially modified or the basis for the exemption is determined to be materially incorrect. A copy of this letter shall be maintained at the site of the proposed activity. This permitting decision is made pursuant to Chapter 403, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Scott M. Sheplak, P.E. is the permit processor responsible for reviewing the request and drafting the exemption. Additional details of this analysis may be obtained by contacting him by telephone at 850/717-9074 or by e-mail at scott.sheplak@dep.state.fl.us in the Department’s Office of Permitting and Compliance at Mail Station #5505, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400.