



FACILITY COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section

UNIT TYPE:

Lined MSWLF	LCID	YW	Transfer	Compost	X	SLAS	COUNTY: Catawba PERMIT NO.: 18-06 FILE TYPE: COMPLIANCE
Closed MSWLF	HHW	White goods	Incineration	T&P		FIRM	
CDFL	Tire T&P / Collection	Tire Monofill	Industrial Landfill	DEMO		SDTF	

Date of Audit: April 16, 2010

Date of Last Audit: January 28, 2010

FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS:

City of Hickory Compost Facility
 Cloninger Mill Road
 Hickory, North Carolina 28601

GPS COORDINATES: N: 35.78609 W: 81.30431

FACILITY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

Andrew Ballentine, Solid Waste Manager
 (828) 302-3747
aballentine@ci.hickory.nc.us

FACILITY CONTACT ADDRESS:

Post Office Box 398
 Hickory, North Carolina 28601

AUDIT PARTICIPANTS:

Andrew Ballentine, Solid Waste Manager
 Herb Collins, Solid Waste Supervisor
 Charles Gerstell, NCDENR-Solid Waste Section

STATUS OF PERMIT:

Large, Type 1 Solid Waste Compost Facility. Permit was issued on September 12, 2005 and the renewal date is September 12, 2010.

PURPOSE OF AUDIT:

Partial Audit/Complaint Investigation

NOTICE OF VIOLATION(S):

North Carolina Administrative Code 13B .1406(1)(a) requires that any person who maintains or operates a solid waste compost facility must follow the construction plans and conditions of the permit.

Permit Condition #1 of the approved permit states: Operation and maintenance of this facility shall be in accordance with the Solid Waste Compost Rules (15A NCAC 13B, Section .1400), the permit application and the Operation and Maintenance Manual submitted with the permit application.

The approved Operation and Maintenance Manual for the facility states: *Undesirable wood waste or tailings from the grinding process are placed in the grinding pile. As needed, the Streets Division will haul the tailings to an appropriately permitted Solid Waste Management Facility.*

FACILITY COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section

Page 2 of 4

Inspection of the facility found that a substantial portion of wood waste and tailings was disposed of on a separate area of the property (parcel ID# 371407691239) northwest of the Compost Facility. The waste was not taken to an appropriately permitted Solid Waste Management Facility as outlined in the approved Operation and Maintenance Manual. Therefore, the City of Hickory did not properly follow the approved Operation and Maintenance Manual. As a result, the City of Hickory is in violation of NCAC 13B .1406(1)(a) and Permit Condition #1.

In order to achieve compliance, within **30** days of receipt of this audit report with Notice of Violation(s), the City of Hickory must remove all wood waste and tailings that were disposed of on the property to a proper Solid Waste Facility permitted by the Division of Waste Management. This may include relocating the waste back to the approved boundaries of the Compost Facility or another permitted facility. Should the material be taken to a different facility permitted to receive this type of waste, a copy of all receipts must be submitted to:

Charles Gerstell, Environment Senior Specialist
Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section
610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115



Overall view of disposal area northwest of compost facility.



View of woody debris.



View of side slope with woody debris.



View of woody debris on northern side slope of disposal area.

FACILITY COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section

Page 3 of 4

You are hereby advised that, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 130A-22, an administrative penalty of up to \$15,000 per day may be assessed for each violation of the Solid Waste Statute or Regulations. For the violation(s) noted here, you may be subject to enforcement actions including penalties, injunction from operation of a solid waste management facility or a solid waste collection service and any such further relief as may be necessary to achieve compliance with the North Carolina Solid Waste Management Act and Rules.

STATUS OF PAST NOTED VIOLATIONS:

None

AREAS OF CONCERN AND COMMENTS:

1. This audit was performed in response to a complaint that un-ground wood waste was being buried on a separate portion of the property (property ID#: 371407691239) that encompasses this facility.
2. The facility consists of a Large, Type 1 Solid Waste Compost Facility for the composting of yard and garden waste, silvicultural waste, and unpainted and untreated wood waste as described in the facility application.
3. The sign provided at the entrance to the site is correct. A new sign has recently been installed as a result of the previous sign being destroyed by a motor vehicle.
4. Gates have been provided at both entrances to the site to prevent unauthorized access when the facility is not in operation.
5. The rip rap apron at the outlet of the pipe leading to the sediment basin has been repaired since the last inspection.
6. Accumulated sediment had been removed from the sediment basin since the last inspection and additional rip rap and stone had been placed around the riser.
7. It appeared that majority of un-ground material observed during the last inspection was ground since the last inspection.
8. It appeared that the large stockpile of un-ground wood waste observed during the last inspection had been reduced in size and had been relocated to ensure adequate access by firefighting equipment around the waste.
9. During the inspection, measurements were taken and options discussed to determine where the pile of un-ground wood waste would have to be located to ensure that adequate buffers were maintained to the property boundary and residences near the facility.
10. As noted above. Inspection found that a substantial amount of wood waste and tailings was disposed of on a separate portion of the property northeast of the compost facility. Mr. Collins and Mr. Ballentine stated that this material was used to fill in holes. They stated that multiple bidders for grinding considered the material dirt, and did not prefer to grind the waste. However, material observed at the disposal area was wood waste consisting of limbs, logs, and mulch having a consistency of broken down wood and leaves. The disposal area was measured by a measuring wheel and found to be approximately 187-feet by 97-feet or .42 acres.

FACILITY COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section

Page 4 of 4

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this audit report.



Phone: (704) 235-2144

Charles T. Gerstell
Environmental Senior Specialist
Regional Representative

Delivered on : <u>4/23/10</u> by		Electronic Correspondence		US Mail	X	Certified No. [<u>7008 1140 0002</u> <u>2716 2913</u>]
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Cc: Mark Poindexter, Field Operations Branch Supervisor
Deborah Aja, Western District Supervisor

Mick Berry, City Manager
Post Office Box 398
Hickory, North Carolina 28603

Certified No.: 7008 1140 0002 2716 2920