NCDENR
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FACILITY COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section

UNIT TYPE:											
Lined MSWLF		LCID		YW		Transfer		Compost	X	SLAS	
Closed MSWLF		HHW		White goods		Incin		T&P		FIRM	
CDLF		Tire T&P / Collection		Tire Monofill		Industrial Landfill		DEMO		SDTF	

COUNTY: Gaston
PERMIT NO.: SWC-36-13
FILE TYPE: COMPLIANCE

Date of Audit: June 1, 2011 **Date of Last Audit:** September 29, 2010

FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS:
Earth Farms, LLC Compost Facility
351 Colt Thornburg Road
Dallas, North Carolina 28034

GPS COORDINATES: N: 35.36164 W: 81.16927

FACILITY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:
Mr. Jim Lanier, Owner (704) 263-8186
Jim@stanleyenviro.com

FACILITY CONTACT ADDRESS:
Mr. Jim Lanier
Post Office Box 184
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

AUDIT PARTICIPANTS:
Jim Lanier, Owner
Tommy Morrison, Owner
Charles Gerstell, NCDENR-Solid Waste Section

STATUS OF PERMIT:
A Permit to Operate a Large, Type 3 Solid Waste Compost Facility was issued to Earth Farms, LLC on August 12, 2010 and shall expire on August 12, 2015.

PURPOSE OF AUDIT:
Comprehensive Audit/Complaint Investigation

NOTICE OF VIOLATION(S):
N/A

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.

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STATUS OF PAST NOTED VIOLATIONS:
None

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None

AREAS OF CONCERN AND COMMENTS:

1. The permit and operations plan were observed. The documents were found to be current and available for review.
2. A gate has been provided at the entrance to the facility to prevent unauthorized access.
3. Access road into the facility was constructed of all-weather material and was in good condition at the time of inspection.
4. No unapproved feedstocks were observed on site at the time of inspection.
5. All windrows were observed to be of adequate size and within the allowable limits shown on the Permit To Operate.
6. All appropriate buffers required by Administrative Rule had been maintained.
7. Adequate distances had been maintained between windrows and swales to allow access by firefighting equipment.
8. All windrows were labeled with their own identification letter.
9. Temperature logs were reviewed during the inspection. These records appeared to be adequate. Notes were being maintained as to when a new windrow was started, turned, or taken up and when feed stocks were added.
10. The 300-foot X 300-foot additional compost pad and 25-foot X 300-foot pad for storage of leafy material has been installed as approved by the Division on November 16, 2010.
11. Permit Condition #2 states: *The facility shall be maintained to prevent the accumulation of stormwater or leachate on travel areas or active composting sites.* Significant ponding was observed on the east side of the compost area adjacent to the berm for the deodorizing system. Ponding was also observed at multiple locations between windrows and on the west side of the compost area. Take all necessary steps to prevent ponding. Depressions may need to be filled in with soil to prevent future ponding. Prevention of ponding is also a portion of the odor management plan contained in the approved Operations Plan for the facility.
12. This inspection was performed in response to a complaint of strong odors being observed on property southeast of the facility off Philadelphia Church Road. Slight odors were observed at a residence located at 1714 Philadelphia Church Road. Slight odors were also detected at the bridge spanning the South Fork Catawba River and along Philadelphia Church Road to the aforementioned residence. However, these odors were not at a level that the Division would deem objectionable which could result in further Division action or a change in facility procedure. **15A NCAC 13B .1404(c)(4) states:** *A site shall be designed to minimize odors at the property boundary.* During the inspection, a new deodorizing system was observed on the east side of the compost area. Mr. Lanier and Mr. Morrison stated that this system was installed on May 31, 2011. This system consists of an 8-inch PVC pipe which extends for 700-feet on top of a berm approximately 7-feet high. A fan system powered by generator releases the deodorizing agent from the PVC pipe. This system operates 24 hours a day/7 days a week. During the inspection, Mr. Morrison also completed turning of a windrow. A deodorizing unit was mounted to the windrow turner which released a deodorizing agent while the windrow was turned. Once turning was complete, the entire windrow was covered with a thick layer leaves. Continue efforts to minimize odors at the property boundary. Be sure to follow the odor management plan contained in the approved Operations Plan for the facility.
13. Finished product piles were less than 60-feet in height as required by Permit Condition #15.

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

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Charles T. Gerstell
Environmental Senior Specialist
Regional Representative

Phone: (704) 235-2144.

Delivered on : 6/13/11 by	**X**	Electronic Correspondence		US Mail		Certified No. [_]

Cc: Deborah Aja, Western District Supervisor