



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott L. Nally, Director

OHIO E.P.A.

AUG 17 2012

ENTERED DIRECTOR'S JOURNAL

August 17, 2012

I certify this to be a true and accurate copy of the official documents as filed in the records of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Jason Ziss
Kurtz Brothers, Inc.
Cloverleaf Composting Facility
6415 Granger Road
Independence, OH 44131

By Danya Lassiter Date: 8-17-12

**RE: Cloverleaf Class II Composting Facility, Cuyahoga County
Approval of Alternative Additive Material for Composting**

Dear Mr. Ziss:

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-560-205, the owner or operator of a Class II solid waste composting facility may request approval to accept an alternative material as feedstock, bulking agent, or additive. On April 23, 2012, Ohio EPA received a request from Kurtz Brothers, Inc. seeking approval to utilize an alternative additive material at their Cloverleaf Class II Composting Facility (Facility) for a 12-month pilot project. The Facility is located at 6415 Granger Road in Independence, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

The alternative additive material consists of alum sludge from the City of Warren water treatment plant. Alum is mixed with the raw water allowing the very fine suspended particles to stick together and settle out. The clarified water can then be more easily filtered and disinfected at the water treatment plant. It has been demonstrated that alum sludge from water treatment plants applied to land can effectively control the loss of phosphorous to surface water runoff and to ground water. However, too much alum sludge applied to croplands can result in phosphorous deficiency to plants due to excessive phosphorous immobilization. In the presence of sufficient quantities of phosphorous and organic material, as in compost, alum sludge will not sorb all the phosphorous. Each source of alum sludge is unique in its phosphorous sorption capacity due to the unique chemical characteristics of the water that was treated. Therefore, a pilot project is recommended to determine if the alum sludge from the City of Warren water treatment plant is feasible as an alternative additive material in the compost process.

The alum sludge described in the request submitted on April 23, 2012, is hereby approved by Ohio EPA as an alternative additive material for the composting pilot project at the Facility located in Independence, Ohio, subject to the following conditions:

1. The alternative additive material shall be managed in accordance with the request submitted on April 23, 2012; OAC Rules 3745-560-01 through 3745-560-435, "Solid Waste Composting Regulations"; OAC Rule 3745-15-07, "Air Pollution Nuisances Prohibited"; and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 6111, "Water Pollution Control."
2. Only alum sludge generated by the City of Warren water treatment plant shall be accepted as an alternative additive material at the Facility.
3. The Director, or his authorized representatives, may enter the Facility at any reasonable time, in accordance with applicable law, to inspect, conduct tests, or examine records and reports concerning the utilization of the alternative additive material and compliance with this authorization.
4. If, in the judgment of Ohio EPA, the owner or operator is unable to abate nuisance conditions or has not complied with the conditions of this authorization, then the owner or operator shall, upon written notification, cease acceptance of the alternative additive material and dispose of all material containing the alternative additive material at a licensed solid waste landfill.
5. Testing requirements shall be fulfilled after compost containing the alternative additive material has completed the thermophilic and curing stages of composting. The owner or operator shall have the cured compost tested for the parameters listed in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, as specified in OAC Rule 3745-560-230.
6. Cured compost containing the alternative additive material that meets the compost quality standards for Class II composting facilities specified in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 of OAC Rule 3745-560-230 may be distributed for unrestricted use.
7. Cured compost containing the alternative additive material that does not meet the compost quality standards for Class II composting facilities specified in OAC Rule 3745-560-230 shall be recirculated into the composting process or disposed of at a licensed solid waste disposal facility.

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8. This approval for use of alternative additive material shall terminate twelve (12) months after the effective date of this approval or upon closure of the Facility or non-renewal of the annual operating license.
9. This approval is issued solely to Kurtz Brothers, Inc. for use of the alternative additive material at the Facility, and is not transferable upon change in ownership of the Facility. No other persons may utilize the alternative additive material specified in this approval at the Facility.

Issuance of this alternative additive material approval does not constitute expressed or implied agreement that the monitoring of the Facility performed and implemented in accordance with this alternative additive material approval, and/or its terms and conditions, will constitute compliance with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations, nor does issuance of this approval assure that necessary operating permits or licenses will be granted.

You are notified that this action of the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (Director) is final and may be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (Commission) pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3745.04. The appeal must be in writing and set forth the action complained of and the grounds upon which the appeal is based. The appeal must be filed with the Commission within thirty (30) days after notice of the Director's action. The appeal must be accompanied by a filing fee of \$70.00 made payable to "Treasurer, State of Ohio." The Commission, in its discretion, may reduce the fee if by affidavit it is demonstrated that payment of the full amount of the fee would cause extreme hardship. Notice of the filing of the appeal shall be filed with the Director within three (3) days of filing with the Commission. Ohio EPA requests that a copy of the appeal be served upon the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Environmental Enforcement Section. An appeal may be filed with the Environmental Review Appeals Commission at the following address:

Environmental Review Appeals Commission
77 South High Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Peter Ferron of Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management, at (614) 728-5367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Nally". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Scott J. Nally
Director

PF/SH:jm

Cc: Scott Hester, DMWM, CO
DMWM, NEDO
Vince Romeo, City of Warren Water Plant
Collin Johnson, Cuyahoga County Board of Health