



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 September 2023

Frank Sepeda
WC Wood Industries Company
7715 Avenue 296
Visalia, CA 93291

CERTIFIED MAIL
7022 2410 0000 2157 8654

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WATER QUALITY ORDER 2020-0012-DWQ
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL
COMPOSTING OPERATIONS
WC WOOD INDUSTRIES COMPANY
TULARE COUNTY
GLOBAL ID T10000011133**

WC Wood Industries Company (hereafter Discharger) was issued a *Notice of Applicability* (NOA), dated 10 October 2017, to obtain coverage under the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ* for composting operations at the WC Wood Industries composting facility (Facility). Subsequent to the issuance of the NOA, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Composting Operations, Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ* (Revised General Order) amending Order WQ-2015-0121-DWQ. The Revised General Order was adopted on 7 April 2020 and contains several revisions. New composting facilities and existing facilities that are making substantial changes to their operations are required to submit for enrollment under the Revised General Order.

The Facility was originally designated as a Tier II composting facility and assigned the following enrollee identification number: 2015-0121-DWQ-R5F010. In accordance with the Revised General Order, a NOI was submitted on 7 July 2023 to increase the permitted composting area from 35 acres (25 acres of active composting area plus 10 acres of material receiving, screening, and processing) to 57 acres (47 acres of active composting area plus 10 acres of material receiving, screening, and processing). This increase in acreage is reflected in the current permit issued by the County of Tulare and CalRecycle. This revised NOA approves the expansion of the WC Wood Industries Company composting operations to the acreage previously approved in the permit issued by the County of Tulare and CalRecycle. The stipulations in the NOA issued on 19 December 2017 remain in effect.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

The Facility meets the conditions of the Revised General Order and is hereby covered under the Revised General Order as a Tier II composting operation with the following enrollee identification number: **2020-0012-DWQ-R5F11**.

The Discharger must comply with all Tier II requirements of the General Order. The filing fee for the WC Wood Industries Company Composting Facility is based on Threat to Water Quality and Complexity rating of 3B. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated. To fully comply with this NOA, please be familiar with the contents of the enclosed memorandum and all of the requirements of the Revised General Order.

The Discharger is responsible for implementing all operations in a manner that complies with the Revised General Order. Any noncompliance with the Revised General Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code, and is grounds for enforcement action, and/or termination of enrollment under this General Order. Conditions of the Revised General Order include but are not limited to the following:

1. Any expansion of Facility operations must meet the requirements of the Revised General Order prior to commencement of composting operations in any new area.
2. A revised NOI is required at least 90 days prior to:
 - a. adding a new feedstock, additive, or amendment;
 - b. changing material or construction specifications;
 - c. changing a monitoring program; or
 - d. changing an operation or activity not described in the approved NOI and technical report.
3. Technical reports must be submitted 90 days prior to each construction activity. While post-construction reports must be submitted 60 days after the completion of each construction activity.
4. Attachment B of the General Order includes specific monitoring and reporting requirements that you must comply with, including routine monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. The Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report as identified in the Revised General Order must be submitted annually to the Central Valley Water Board by **1 April**.
5. All reports and other correspondence must be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically to the Geotracker database under the Global ID **T10000011133** with confirmation of upload emailed to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with the following information included:

Discharger Name:	WC Wood Industries Company
Facility Name:	Wood Industries Company Composting Facility
County:	Tulare County
CIWQS Place ID:	272904

If you have any questions regarding this NOA, please call Daniel Benas at (559) 445-5500 or by email at daniel.benas@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Scott J. Hatton for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: WPCMDivision@CalRecycle.ca.gov
Jessica Gocke jgocke@tularehhsa.org
Kyle Parreira kylep@4-creeks.com

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Scott J. Hatton
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Kristen S. Gomes
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

FROM: Daniel B. Benas
Water Resource Control Engineer

DATE: 22 September 2023

REVISED NOTICE OF INTENT FOR COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER 2020-0012-DWQ, WC WOOD INDUSTRIES COMPANY COMPOSTING, TULARE COUNTY, GLOBAL ID T10000011133

WC Wood Industries Company (hereafter Discharger) was issued a *Notice of Applicability* (NOA), dated 10 October 2017, to obtain coverage under the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, Order WQ 2015-0121-DWQ* for composting operations at the WC Wood Industries composting facility (Facility). Subsequent to the issuance of the NOA, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Composting Operations, Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ* (Revised General Order) amending Order WQ-2015-0121-DWQ. The Revised General Order was adopted on 7 April 2020 and contains several revisions. New composting facilities and existing facilities that are making substantial changes to their operations are required to submit for enrollment under the Revised General Order.

On 6 June 2023, the Discharger was issued a *Notice of Violation* (NOV) for, in part, composting on a 15-acre unpermitted area between the eastern boundary of the Facility and State Highway 99. In response to the NOV and in accordance with the Revised General Order, a NOI was submitted on 7 July 2023 to increase the permitted composting area from 35 acres (25 acres of active composting area plus 10 acres of material receiving, screening, and processing) to 57 acres (47 acres of active composting area plus 10 acres of material receiving, screening, and processing). This increase in acreage is reflected in the current permit issued by the County of Tulare and CalRecycle.

SITE CONDITIONS

The Facility is located at 7715 Avenue 296 in Tulare County, west of the City of Visalia. Composting operations occur on 47 acres of the 92-acre site. An additional 10 acres is used for material receiving, screening, and processing, which includes chipping and grinding activities. The chipping and grinding activities are exempt from the Revised General Order and occur on the western end of the site. The site includes Assessor Parcel Numbers 081-080-11 and 081-090-01.

Based on Department of Water Resources (DWR) data, depth to groundwater at the Facility is estimated to be 140 feet below ground surface, and the groundwater flow gradient is generally to the south. Currently, there are no monitoring wells at this Facility. Data from the Hanford, Visalia, and Porterville stations were used to determine the average (9.12 inches), minimum (2.96 inches), and maximum (17.50 inches) annual precipitation. The average annual pan evaporation ranged between 65 inches (Bakersfield station) and 68 inches (Fresno station). The magnitude of the 24-hour 25-year design storm was estimated to be 2.74 inches based on the data provided from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Administration.

Land uses within one mile of the Facility include rural agricultural land, a recycling center, a few commercial businesses, an airport, a golf course, and the City of Visalia wastewater treatment plant. Water is supplied to the Facility by two on-site agricultural wells, one of which is located in the northwestern portion of the site and the other in the southeastern. The nearest domestic supply well is over 1,000 feet west of the Facility. The closest surface water bodies are Mill Creek and Persian Ditch, which run through the property. Composting operations are located south and the Facility grading diverts surface runoff to the stormwater basin. Wood Industries Company will ensure that composting operations are not within 100 feet of the wells or the surface water bodies. Geologic maps and cross sections provided by the Department of Water Resources for the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District were used to analyze the site's lithology and structural features. The hydrogeology beneath the Facility is made up of older alluvium deposits interfingering by a clay layer. Additionally, a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey Custom Soils Resources Report was performed for the Facility. The soil type for the working surfaces of the composting operation was determined to be colpien loam.

COMPOSTING OPERATIONS

WC Wood Industries Company is currently permitted to receive and process up to 400 tons per day of green waste and smaller quantities of source separated food and agricultural wastes. The permitted operational capacity is currently 500,000 cubic yards. Most incoming feedstock arrives to the Facility in bulk. It is then size-reduced, screened, and sorted to remove undesirable material. The Facility currently utilizes the open windrow composting technique. Windrows are monitored, watered, and turned during the composting process. Composting operations are on native soil and the working surfaces have some compaction from the daily operation of equipment onsite.

In August 2022, the Facility submitted a design report and work plan with an updated technical water and wastewater management plan (WWMP) report for a proposed wastewater detention pond liner, which was approved on 5 October 2022. In July 2023, the Facility submitted a post-construction certification report for the pond liner certifying that pond was expanded and that the liner was constructed in accordance with the approved design plans and technical specifications. This certification report was approved on 19 September 2023.

According to the calculations of the approved WWMP, the Facility required a wastewater storage capacity of 1,417,884 gallons for a peak storm event (25-year, 24-hour), which included the additional acreage in the most recent NOI. According to the post-construction certification report, the wastewater pond has a storage capacity of 1,788,752 gallons, which exceeds the requirements in the Revised General Order. Results of conductivity testing were submitted which indicated that the Facility meets the 1×10^{-5} cm/sec requirements for its working surfaces.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE

Full compliance with the Revised General Order is required. Any expansion of Facility operation must meet the requirements of the General Order prior to commencement of composting operations in any new area. Additionally, prior to any Facility expansion, WC Wood Industries Company will have to submit a technical report with design information at least 90 days prior to new construction of working surfaces, detention ponds, berms, ditches, or any other water quality protection containment structure for approval by the Central Valley Water Board. The design information must include water balance calculations for detention ponds and wastewater conveyance features.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

WC Wood Industries Company will regularly inspect and maintain all containment, control, monitoring structures, and monitoring systems pursuant to the technical report and Attachment B of the General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. The frequency of inspections will be sufficient to prevent discharges of feedstocks, compost (active, curing, or final product), or wastewater from creating, threatening to create, or contributing to conditions of contamination, pollution, or nuisance. WC Wood Industries Company will conduct a monitoring program as prescribed in the applicable portions of Attachment B of General Order Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Results of monitoring will be reported annually in the Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, which will be submitted by **1 April** of each year as long as the Notice of Applicability is in effect.

SITE CLOSURE

At least 90 days prior to ceasing composting operations, WC Wood Industries Company shall submit a Site Closure Plan to the Central Valley Water Board for approval. The site restoration shall include work necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Facility meets the criteria to enroll under the Revised General Order as a Tier II Facility. *Notice of Applicability 2015-0121-DWQ-R5F010*, issued on 19 December 2017, should be rescinded and replaced with a NOA for the Revised General Order.