

EA Tightens Permitting Regs

November 2010

On 4th November the EA released an interim position statement which will make it tougher for composting sites to obtain permits.

At present sites are issued permits once they have successfully completed a Site Specific Bioaerosol Risk Assessment (SSBRA) showing that bioaerosols can be kept at acceptable levels.

However, under the new arrangements, as well as being subject to an SSBRA, sites will only be permitted if:

- they handle less than 500 tonnes of waste at any one time, or
- if waste tonnages exceed 500 tonnes, the operations are carried out in a way not likely to result in the uncontrolled release of bioaerosols.

This means that sites dealing with over 500 tonnes of waste at any one time are likely to have to utilise methods such as negative aeration, enclosure or selective processing to prevent the release of bioaerosols in order to secure a permit.

This position statement may mean that the applications from sites within 250m of sensitive receptors, are refused, irrespective of findings from monitoring and the SSBRA

In addition, the EA will carry out a selective review of existing permitted sites that are less than 250m from sensitive receptors, and will review whether the site should adopt additional measures to control bioaerosols (such as negative aeration or enclosure).

EA position statement

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/Composting_bioaerosols.pdf

VCU Europa provides an extensive range of composting solutions to meet these new stringent requirements.

As well as its proprietary vertical in-vessel technology, VCU Europa offers a suite of Aerated Static Piles 'ASP' systems including covered piles; above and below ground aeration, positive and/or negative aeration.

Systems offer exceptional process control and efficiencies in footprint and operating costs.

For further information on how VCU Europa is helping its customers achieve cost effective compliance, contact:

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