



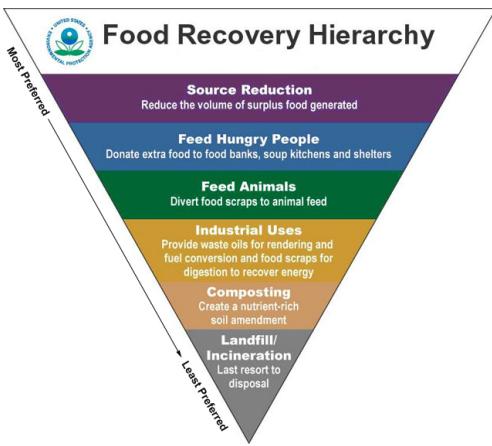
Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management

Composting News

October 2015

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Market Intelligence

Volume 24 Number 8



Federal government sets food waste goal

The U.S. EPA and the USDA this month jointly announced the nation's first national food waste reduction goal, calling for a 50-percent reduction by 2030. As part of the effort, the federal government said it will lead a new partnership with charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector and local, state and tribal governments to reduce food loss and waste in order to improve overall food security and conserve our nation's natural resources.

The agencies did not offer details about how that partnership will work.

"The United States enjoys the most productive and abundant food supply on earth, but too much of this food goes

(See Goal, page 8)

Hog manure-to-energy facility will create renewable natural gas

A Missouri facility scheduled to start operation next summer will be the largest to create renewable natural gas (RNG) from hog manure, its developer said. Roeslein Alternative Energy, of St. Louis, said the turnkey facility will create and inject large quantities of RNG into the national grid system. The gas will be created from manure at Ruckman Farm, one of the nine Smithfield Foods Missouri hog production facilities, one of the largest concentrations of finishing hogs in the Midwest.

"The technology we have developed is ready to be deployed commercially in a project that makes both economic sense and environmental sense," said Rudi Roeslein, founder and president of Roeslein. "This is not just about converting the manure from almost two million pigs into renew-



Photo: Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC

(See Hogs, page 8)

Plastic company cannot claim biodegradability, FTC rules

By Ken McEntee

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has ruled biodegradability claims by a plastics additive manufacturer to be deceptive. The attorney for Painesville, Ohio-based ECM BioFilms said ECM will appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

"It is a disastrous decision that should be held as unconstitutional under the First Amendment," said Jonathan Emord, of Washington D.C.-based Emord & Associates. "It is an egregious instance of abuse of agency

discretion."

Emord said FTC's order against ECM reversed the decision of its own administrative law judge and contradicted the testimony of its own scientific experts.

In January 2015, FTC's Chief

(See Plastic, page 12)

Highlights

n New federal water rule blocked by court

n National compost prices

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Legislation/Regulation

New federal water rule blocked by court

By Ken McEntee

As many observers expected, the Obama administration's new "Clean Water Rule" that redefines the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) has been stayed in federal court. This month, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a nationwide stay of the new rule, blocking its implementation while numerous court challenges across the country are sorted out and tried.

"The Sixth Circuit stayed the rule across the country to maintain the status quo while it determines if the court has jurisdiction to hear the challenge on its merits or whether the federal district courts should hear the



cases first," according to the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), which sued the administration on behalf of a group of landowners, farmers and cattlemen to invalidate WOTUS.

WOTUS, which was developed by the U.S. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, was issued on June 29 and immediately was challenged in 10 different suits involving more than 30 states and scores of private parties.

The stay was hardly a surprise. In July, Jay Lehr, science director for the Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based research organization, told *Composting News* that a barrage of lawsuits, injunctions and acts of Congress was likely to block the new

(See Water, page 5)



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Senate fails to kill water rule

Following a federal court stay of the federal government's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, the U.S. Senate fell three votes short of advancing a resolution to block the rule. Three democrats joined 54 republicans in a 57-41 vote, where 60 votes were needed to move the bill forward.

"Keeping our waters free of dangerous pollution is a goal we all support, but the rule in its current form has caused too much confusion and goes too far," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill, of Missouri, one of the three democrats who voted to block WOTUS. "The agencies need to go back to the drawing board and quickly develop a commonsense proposal to protect the health of our waterways, and put at ease the minds of our farmers, ranchers and private landowners - something that should have been done in the first place."

According to Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who voted to block WOTUS, "The Obama administration's penchant for burdensome regulations has gone so far that the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are even trying to regulate farmers' mud puddles. We must stop the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' efforts to add to the big, wet blanket of burdensome regulations that mean higher costs for Tennessee families, farmers and businesses."

Legislation/Regulation Water

From page 3

regulations from going into effect.

"I think this will be in the courts for years," said Lehr, the nation's first Ph.D. in groundwater hydrology who was among the first advocates for the

creation of the EPA almost 50 years ago. "With all of the various filers from multiple states and organizations, I can't imagine that they will have trouble finding judges at the right levels who will place injunctions against the carrying out of this law."

H. Reed Hopper, principal attorney for PLF, said that whichever court ultimately decides the fate of the new rule, the Sixth Circuit's stay decision is noteworthy in its conclusion that the rule appears to be invalid on its face because:

- It is arguably inconsistent with Supreme Court decisions limiting the scope of the Clean Water Act, including PLF's 2006 case of *Rapanos v. United States*;
- It was apparently issued without adequate public review and comment; and
- It may undermine the Clean Water Act's goal of recognizing the primary role of the states in protecting local land and water use.

"As PLF argues in our challenge to the sweeping rule, the Obama administration's new rule represents an unprecedented expansion of federal power that could bring virtually all the nation's water and much of the land under command-and-control direction from Washington, D.C.," Hopper said. "Its vast expansion of the Clean Water Act jurisdiction violates both the terms of the act and the constitution's limits on federal authority. Under its vague and limitless terms, the only waters that are clearly not subject to federal regulatory power are a few that are expressly excluded, including artificial reflective pools, ornamental waters and some ground water."

As reported in the August issue of *Composting News*, Robert LaGasse, executive director of the Mulch and Soil Council, expressed reservations about WOTUS, saying that the rule "presents a big problem for anybody who wants to make changes to their property. The rules are so vague that you might get one answer from one regulator and a completely different

answer from another regulator."

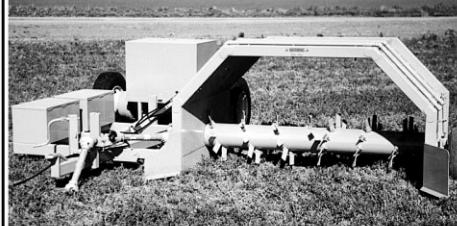
The U.S. Composting Council, on the other hand, isn't concerned about the new rule, according to Cary Oshins, director of education for the organization.

"I don't think this will make much of a difference for compost sites," Oshins said.

Opponents like Hopper, however, said the rule, if enacted, would impact everybody.

"Property owners around the country will be faced with the prospect of being micro-managed by federal bureaucrats," Hopper said. "This turns our federal system on its head. Under our constitutional framework, the states and localities are charged with the primary role in land use regulation and local water-quality protection. The new rule usurps the authority and responsibility of the states, and empowers bureaucrats in Washington D.C. to act as zoning and land use czars for the entire nation."

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National Compost Prices

The prices listed below are intended to indicate the value of mature compost products sold by compost producers and retailers in noted regions. Prices listed are based on surveys and publicly posted prices. Your input on published prices is encouraged. Contact Ken McEntee, editor, at (440) 238-6603. Fax: (440) 238-6712. EMail: ken@recycle.cc. Address: 9815 Hazelwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44149. Notes on listings.

- Each listing includes a high price obtained, a low price obtained and an average of all prices obtained within a particular market.

- Market areas: Thirteen market areas have been

targeted to provide a cross section of compost product markets in the U.S. Where regions are not identified by a specific city, "Chesapeake" refers to the region stretching between Norfolk, Va. to Baltimore, Md. "Texas" incorporates several major cities in the state. "Northwest" represents the Seattle and Portland, Ore. areas. "SF-Bay" refers to the San Francisco Bay area. SoCal is Southern California, including the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Denver includes Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

- "Food waste" compost: This category refers to compost products that include food waste, regional specialties and other feedstocks not specifically

covered in other categories.

- Manures: Chicken manures may include other poultry manures, such as turkey and duck manure. Cow manures may include manures marketed as steer and dairy manure. Horse manure is included in this category as well.

- Absence of a regional listing within a given category indicates not enough information for a valid listing. Additional data will be added as more information is obtained.

- Bulk retail prices do not include municipal operations that give compost away for free.

Bulk Retail (yard)

Yard waste compost

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 32.55	\$ 77.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 24.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 17.00
SE	\$ 21.88	\$ 29.95	\$ 16.00
Florida	\$ 16.42	\$ 26.00	\$ 10.50
Cleveland	\$ 19.90	\$ 28.00	\$ 12.50
Iowa	\$ 21.57	\$ 53.00	\$ 7.50
Minneapolis	\$ 17.09	\$ 28.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 29.71	\$ 40.00	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 20.31	\$ 31.00	\$ 12.00
Northwest	\$ 24.05	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00
SF-Bay	\$ 21.92	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
SoCal	\$ 14.75	\$ 24.00	\$ 8.00

Food waste compost

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 39.12	\$ 64.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 23.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SE	\$ 28.11	\$ 35.00	\$ 24.00
Florida	\$ 17.50	\$ 22.00	\$ 13.00
Iowa	\$ 25.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 15.00
Minneapolis	\$ 12.33	\$ 16.00	\$ 9.00
Texas	\$ 30.21	\$ 48.95	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Northwest	\$ 20.55	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SF-Bay	\$ 23.61	\$ 38.00	\$ 14.00
SoCal	\$ 30.50	\$ 45.00	\$ 16.00

Leaf humus

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 24.98	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.95
Chesapeake	\$ 27.49	\$ 30.00	\$ 23.95
Cleveland	\$ 19.27	\$ 26.00	\$ 8.00

Composted biosolids

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00
Chesapeake	\$ 24.98	\$ 35.00	\$ 12.00
SE	\$ 12.14	\$ 28.00	\$ 4.00
Florida	\$ 13.14	\$ 22.00	\$ 8.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.77	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.50
Iowa	\$ 12.67	\$ 21.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 21.28	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
Denver	\$ 9.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 7.00
Northwest	\$ 17.91	\$ 26.00	\$ 7.00
SoCal	\$ 13.36	\$ 22.00	\$ 3.50

Composted chicken manure

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
Chesapeake	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
SE	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00
Minneapolis	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
Texas	\$ 37.23	\$ 47.50	\$ 26.95
Denver	\$ 25.65	\$ 28.00	\$ 24.00
SF-Bay	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
SoCal	\$ 44.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 27.00

Composted cow manure

	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.50	\$ 46.00	\$ 45.00
SE	\$ 31.33	\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00
Iowa	\$ 42.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 16.00
Minneapolis	\$ 29.33	\$ 32.00	\$ 26.00
Texas	\$ 29.33	\$ 47.50	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 21.71	\$ 30.00	\$ 12.00
Phoenix	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Northwest	\$ 23.85	\$ 33.75	\$ 17.45

SF-Bay

SoCal

Denver

Northwest

SoCal

Wood waste mulch

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Cleveland

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Composted cow manure

NE

SE

Iowa

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Wood waste mulch

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Colored wood mulch

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Yard waste compost

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Cleveland

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Yard waste compost

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Cleveland

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Denver

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Bag Retail

Compost (40# bag)

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Cleveland

Iowa

Texas

Denver

Phoenix

Northwest

SF-Bay

SoCal

Composted cow manure(40#bag)

NE

Chesapeake

SE

Florida

Cleveland

Iowa

Minneapolis

Texas

Phoenix

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Food Waste

Goal

From page 1

to waste," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Our new reduction goal demonstrates America's leadership on a global level in getting wholesome food to people who need it, protecting our natural resources, cutting environmental pollution and promoting innovative approaches for reducing food loss and waste."

Food loss and waste in the U.S. accounts for about 31 percent—or 133 billion pounds—of the overall food supply available to retailers and consumers, the government said. Food loss and waste is single largest component of disposed municipal solid waste.

The 50 percent reduction goal builds on current federal food waste initiatives. In 2013, USDA and EPA launched the U.S. Food Waste



Challenge, creating a platform for leaders and organizations across the food chain to share best practices on ways to reduce, recover and recycle food loss and waste. By the end of 2014, the U.S. Food Waste Challenge had more than 4,000 active participants, surpassing its initial goal of reaching 1,000 participants by 2020, EPA said.

In addition, USDA said it has unveiled several food loss reduction initiatives over the past few years, including research on innovative technologies to make it more cost effective to reduce food loss and waste.

USDA and EPA said they will continue

to encourage the private sector—food service companies, institutions, restaurants, grocery stores and others—to set their own aggressive goals for reducing food loss and waste in the months ahead.

Manure management

Hogs

From page 1

able energy. It's about taking environmental sustainability to a new level."

Construction on the \$120 million project began in 2014. Phase One, which is nearly 50 percent complete, involves installation of impermeable covers and flare systems on the 88 existing manure lagoons at Smithfield Foods hog finishing farms in Northern Missouri. Phase Two involves fabricating and installing technology to purify the biogas captured by the

(See Hogs, page 12)

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Manure Management

Hogs

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impermeable covers and developing an inter-connection to a natural gas pipeline that transverses Ruckman Farm. RNG is projected to enter the pipeline in the summer of 2016. Duke Energy, of North Carolina, has agreed to purchase a portion of the RNG to help meet clean energy requirements for power generation.

Roeslein said the hog manure from the project will produce about 2.2 billion cubic feet of pipeline quality RNG annually.

The company said it intends to supplement the hog manure feedstock with biomass harvested from restored prairie grasslands to produce additional RNG.

"We are developing a mixture of grasses and native species that provide ecological services, wildlife habitat and biomass that will be co-digested with manure," Roeslein said. We hope to demonstrate the concept on a small scale at Ruckman, move it to other farms and then hopefully across the Midwest."

Compostables

Plastics

From page 1

Administrative Law Judge D. Michael Chappell ruled that ECM's claim that its plastics additive, ECM MasterBatch Pellets, causes plastics to biodegrade was supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence and rejected FTC's challenge to that claim. Chappell also rejected FTC's argument that the term "biodegradable" implies that a product will completely biodegrade into elements found in nature within one year after customary disposal — a position articulated in the FTC's Green Guides industry guidance.

Along with reversing the ALJ decision, FTC changed the one-year rule in its Green Guides to say that products must be proven to break

down into natural elements within five years of disposal to claim biodegradability.

ECM advertised the additive causes plastics to be biodegradable, that plastics treated with MasterBatch Pellets are "biodegradable in a landfill" and that plastic products made with ECM additives "biodegrade in nine months to five years."

Emord said the latter claim had been since withdrawn.

FTC in October 2013, filed an administrative complaint alleging that ECM's claims were false or unsubstantiated. After about three months of hearings, the commission officially issued its opinion and final order against ECM on October 19. The order basically tells ECM to stop making claims of biodegradability.

"In its opinion, written by Commissioner Terrell McSweeny, the commission affirmed (Chappell's) initial decision that ECM made deceptive claims that plastics treated with ECM's additive would completely biodegrade in a landfill within nine months to five years, and that scientific tests supported this claim," FTC announced. "The commission also upheld the ALJ's finding that ECM encouraged its customers – companies that manufacture plastics – to pass on the deceptive claims to their customers and end-users."

FTC said that based on its own examination of the evidence, it also found that ECM made implied claims that plastic products treated with ECM's additive will biodegrade in a reasonably short period of time, or within five years, and that these claims were false and unsubstantiated. This reversed the ALJ's finding that the commission did not prove that ECM's environmental marketing conveyed such implied claims. In its ruling FTC considered ECM's customers' inability to "readily judge for themselves the truth or falsity of ECM's claims."

The FTC vote to approve the Opinion and Final Order was 4-0, with Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen dissenting in part and issuing a separate

statement. In her statement, Ohlhausen agreed with the ALJ that FTC failed to prove that ECM's unqualified "biodegradable" claim caused reasonable consumers to believe that treated products would biodegrade in a reasonably short time period.

"This is a momentous decision in the sense that it will transform the industry," Emord told *Composting News*. "It promulgates a new rule amending the FTC Green Guide to say that plastic has to biodegrade into elements in nature within five years of customary disposal or you can't call it biodegradable. The problem is that is not scientific. First of all, materials don't ordinarily break down into elements - they break down into compounds. Any substance from a piece of wood to banana to a piece of paper breaks into compounds, not elements, which means that there is nothing that can qualify for the term 'biodegradable.'"

Emord said the five-year rule for a substance breaking down into elements is "nutty."

"Intrinsically biodegradable substances cannot be predicted to biodegrade within any set time period," he said. "It depends on ambient environmental conditions and the relative presence of biota. Under the new FTC rule, a product that completely biodegrades five years and one minute after disposal is not lawfully labeled 'biodegradable' but one that completely biodegrades just one minute before is."

Emord said more than 20 gas evolution tests done by ECM and companies that purchased the additive confirmed intrinsic biodegradability.

"Those are generally accepted tests and FTC rejected those tests and articulated what it would accept as biodegradable in broad terms," Emord said. "There is no testing methodology to prove what they will accept. Nothing is going to completely break down, even if it is intrinsically biodegradable, within five years by any reliable

(See Plastics, page 14)

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Compostables

Plastics

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measure."

Emord said Mort Barlaz, of North Carolina State University, "who is recognized as one of, if not the top expert in the world on biodegradation of plastics in the world," testified to the commission that the ECM additive made plastics intrinsically biodegradable.

"The method of testing was even affirmed as valid by FTC's own testifying expert, Dr. Thabet Tolaymat, a representative of the U.S. EPA," Emord said. "The judge agreed, in very tedious detail, that we showed proof of biodegradability, and that FTC did not prove otherwise. Without a reasoned explanation for departure from the science, the FTC adopted instead an arbitrary five-year cut off as the standard for allowing biodegradable

claims. This is a very strange process where the prosecutor is also the judge. The commission simply rejected all of the evidence that convinced the ALJ of our case, and didn't have to explain why."

According to ECM, plastics treated with its additive has been tested and proved as biodegradable and safe for the environment by using the following ASTM test methods D5209, D5338 and 5511. A complete history of the case against ECM can be found in FTC Docket No. 9358, at <http://tinyurl.com/p3bx5gd>.



Compost Digest

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- The Shelby County Health Department declared a "Code Orange" this month in **East Memphis, Tenn.** due to a smoldering mulch and wood

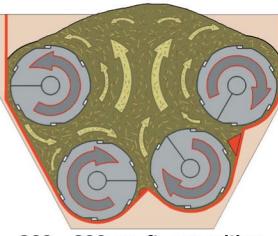
pellet fire. "Code Orange" means children and adults with asthma and heart disease should limit their outdoor time until the lingering smoke and affected air quality clears. The mulch fire burned at Nature's Earth Products.

– Local Memphis,
www.localmemphis.com

• **Colorado State University** may have significantly decreased its emissions footprint thanks to Oscar, a composting system created by Housing and Dining's composting program. The composting machine, worth roughly \$140,000 and located on the CSU Foothills Campus, is now in its fourth year of running. It can process about 250,000 pounds of food waste each year, or up to 10,000 pounds each week. All of the compost material is provided from the dining hall food waste that would otherwise have been dumped in a landfill.

The resulting compost is used in non-profit community organizations and

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landscaping projects around campus such as the new Laurel Village complex.

Food waste gets put into one end of the machine, with thicker materials such as wood or manure from the Equine Center added in afterwards at a 1:2 ratio. Then, the mixture is processed for roughly three weeks and left to sit for another three to four weeks until it is ready to be used. This system creates an earth-friendly environment, CSU students said.

— *The Rocky Mountain Collegian*, www.collegian.com

- It is the mission of food banks to provide a nutritional safety net to the 48 million food-insecure people in the U.S., so it might be surprising to learn that food banks—just like university dining halls and other high-volume food service providers—struggle with food waste.

Take the **San Diego** Food Bank. It receives more than 23 million pounds of food annually, but about 500,000 pounds of that is damaged or expired product that can't be distributed, costing it about \$25,000 a year in landfill fees—which isn't exactly chump change for a nonprofit. Then there are the environmental costs.

The Food Bank has a zero landfilled food waste goal, which it hopes to achieve with the help of an aerobic, in-vessel rotary drum composting system that will arrive in November.

The high-tech composter can process 2,000 pounds of food waste per day. A bulking agent, such as shredded cardboard, hay, or kiln-dried wood shavings, is added to the food scraps, and in five days, the result is a nutrient-dense compost that will be distributed to local farms and community gardens. The composter

cost \$200,000, and the food bank anticipates it will pay for itself in five to seven years.

The system puts the food bank in early compliance with California's AB 1826, which requires businesses such as restaurants, supermarkets, and food processors to separate food scraps for organics recycling by April 2016.

— *TakePart.com*, www.takepart.com.

- **Vermont Compost Co.** owes \$137,000 in back taxes it failed to charge customers over a five-year period. A recent Vermont Department of Taxes determination found Karl Hammer, owner of the Vermont Compost Co., liable for more than \$137,000 in sales taxes he failed to charge his customers over a five-year

(See Digest, page 17)

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Tiger HS 640. Photo: Composting News

Ecoverse demonstrates Tiger depackager

Ecoverse this month hosted a site demonstration of its Tiger HS 640 depackaging system. The Tiger HS 640 combines the action of a shredder, screen and extrusion auger in a single machine. After wet or dry materials are loaded into the hopper, the unique action of the Tiger mechanism separates the organic fractions from the inorganic packaging, producing both solid and liquid extracts in the discharge.

Ecoverse said the unit is perfect for aerobic digestion operations. The output - up to 30 tons per hour - quickly generates high volumes of biogas energy.

The demonstration took place at the Andre Farms Class 2 composting operation in Wauseon, Ohio.

Chavez named Allu VP

Edgar J. Chavez has been named executive vice president and general manager for Allu Group Inc., the company announced. Chavez will be assume overall responsibility for taking Allu to the next level by mapping its growth through developing the dealer network and increasing brand awareness and market share in North American markets, the company said.

For the last five years, Chavez has

served as director, sales, marketing and product support for Paccar Inc. winch division. His career includes experience with Gradall Industries, CNH Industrial, Astec Industries, Mitsubishi International and Volvo Construction equipment. He now brings his 20-plus years of industry knowledge to Allu.

"Adding Edgar to Allu Group will be instrumental in continuing our success in North America," said company president Mardi Ohanessian. "His experience and knowledge of the industry will be extremely valuable to our operation."

For more information, visit www.allu.net.

McCloskey adds Pons to network

Screening and crushing industry vendor McCloskey International has added CAT dealer Pon Equipment to its global network of distributors serving the Netherlands.

"Having Pon Equipment on board will further strengthen our distribution network globally," said Seamus Doyle, international sales manager for McCloskey. "Working with trusted CAT dealers who have the resources, service and support expected by McCloskey customers is of paramount importance. We anticipate Pon Equipment will contribute significantly to our growth in the marketplace."

Pon Equipment is one of Europe's largest Caterpillar dealerships and service providers, covering Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands.

"We project significant growth in the construction and waste industries in the next five years, and are aligning our product offerings to these emerging opportunities," said Jörgen van der Voorden, segment manager industry

and recycling at Pon Equipment. "The addition of McCloskey's product range secures our strategic position as a full solutions company. We can now offer a total product portfolio to current and potential new customers."

McCloskey products will be offered for the industry and waste markets, complementing other globally recognized brands like Komptech.

Pon Equipment's solutions portfolio will consist of:

- CAT equipment for moving and excavation
- Komptech for screening, shredding and separating bio materials
- McCloskey machines for crushing, screening and stacking granulates and building/construction materials.

For more information, visit www.mccloskeyinternational.com.

Peterson displays at Paul Bunyan show

Peterson this month released a video of its 6700D Horizontal Grinder feeding a Peterson 4710B Horizontal Grinder at the 2015 Paul Bunyan Show in Cambridge, Ohio. With 1125 horsepower on tap, the 6700D has massive production, Peterson said.

The 6700D is Peterson's largest horizontal grinder and is designed for operations that need the most durable, highest output machine. The grinder is particularly suited for land clearing operations or other applications where mobility is desired, Peterson said. Peterson's three-stage grinding process with an up turning rotor and large grate area enables the 6700D to produce materials to exact specifications. The annual Paul Bunyan Show is presented by the Ohio Forestry Association. For more information, visit www.petersoncorp.com.



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Compost Digest



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period.

The state began requiring compost producers to pay a tax on wholesale purchases of compost in 2009, and several company owners, including Hammer, say the Department of Taxes didn't notify them of the requirement. Prior to 2009, compost wholesalers were exempt from the sales tax.

In 2014, the law was changed to revert to an exemption for compost wholesalers. Hammer, meanwhile, owes sales taxes for the interim period, from 2009 to 2014.

Hammer is attempting to collect the sales tax from customers — on purchases they made years ago. He recently sent out more than 1,000 letters to customers, asking them to pay taxes they owed at the time of sale.

Tax officials say this approach isn't



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unprecedented, but neither is it common. Bulk compost was exempted from the state sales tax when a solid waste bill, Act 148, went into effect in July 2014.

Steve Wisbaum, owner of Champlain Valley Compost, hasn't experienced the problems Hammer encountered. Wisbaum said he had been charging sales tax on all his compost until the law changed last year.

Green Mountain Compost's Dan Goossen said his company, too, charged sales tax all along, and avoided troubles of the sort that Hammer experienced.

But Wisbaum said the state "clearly messed up" by not notifying the few compost wholesalers in the state when tax policy changed in 2009.

— VTDigger, www.vtdigger.org

- A compost odor that permeated parts of **York County, Maine** was at the center of an investigation by the Maine Department of Environmental

(See Digest, page 19)

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Protection.

Arundel town officials said a composting facility at a farm is to blame and is operating in violation of local and state rules.

A DEP official tried to inspect the site – at Dubois Livestock & Excavating, but was denied access to the site, DEP said.

The farm spreads compost made from shellfish waste and manure on 80 acres of hay fields several times a year, but some residents are raising a stink because they say it's never smelled so bad.

The state said composting itself is not a violation, but the compost must be sufficiently cured so it does not create a nuisance odor. The town said

the company is in violation of local ordinances but the owners say they are in compliance with state law. – WCSH-TV, www.wcsh6.com

- **Webb City, Mo.** City Administrator Carl Francis briefed state and local officials about an ambitious wetlands and habitat restoration project and a related composting plan to deal with contaminated sewage sludge from the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The wetland and habitat restoration effort as well as the wastewater composting project are all tied into a \$19 million EPA effort to clean up mining sites in the area.

Much of the money for the work is part of a settlement between the federal government and ASARCO, a mining company that operated in the area in the 1900s.

The city, along with the EPA, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, is working to not only reclaim former contaminated mine land but to also create a wetlands area that will hopefully become home to native grasses, water flora and fowl.

Officials hope the wetlands project along with the composting plan will greatly reduce the amount of zinc in the city's wastewater to levels acceptable by state and federal regulators.

The EPA said the composting plan will take sludge, manure and yard waste and turn it into topsoil that will be used on the mine land being reclaimed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it, along with state DNR and city officials have been successful in their efforts to develop a composting mixture, on a small scale that will allow it to safely be used as topsoil and it hopes that the composting can begin in earnest by next summer. – *Joplin Globe*, www.joplinglobe.com

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