

April, 2013

Ken Decio
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
1001 I Street--P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Re: Draft Regulations (of Title 14 & 27) for Issue 7: *Anaerobic Digestion Facility Permitting*

Dear Mr. Decio,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the draft regulation for Anaerobic Digestion Facility Permitting.

FEED Resource Recovery Inc. delivers onsite Anaerobic Digestion solutions to recover energy and nutrients embedded in food that cannot be sold or donated—reducing customers' disposal costs, energy usage and ecological footprint. FEED's technology is specifically designed for integrating Anaerobic Digestion at Distribution Centers (DC). By locating the Anaerobic Digestion system at a Distribution Center, we optimize existing distribution and transportation networks. The same trucks that deliver the food from the DC to the stores are used to return the unsold food to an Anaerobic Digestion system located at the DC. This closed-loop model creates a substantial financial and environmental impact.

This model has proven to be a safe and clean method of organics management at our facility in Los Angeles. Our facility, the largest operating solid organic Anaerobic Digestion to energy project in North America, is clean, safe and odor neutral. The LEA (Los Angeles Department of Public Health), who has inspected our facility quarterly for the past year in accordance with our Research Notification permit, substantiates this claim. Each and every inspection has yielded no findings. We are proud to be great neighbors.

Why Our Projects Are Different

There are some unique attributes of our operation and facility that make our projects substantially different than other proposed facilities. These differences can be categorized as: Organic Sourcing, Organic Handling and Organic Processing. The elements of these three categories are detailed below.

Organic Sourcing

- Organics originate or are sold at a supermarket
- Our organics are pre-consumer and are handled as if they were fresh product
- The organics remain in the custody of the owner and are never disposed
- Only employees of the organics owner collect the organics
- Organics are collected in a restricted area not open to the public
- Organics are screened at each store to prevent hazardous or unwanted material
- Store associates are trained on what materials are and are not acceptable

- Signs are posted near the containers as a reminder of what materials are acceptable

Organic Handling

- Organics are kept refrigerated as material is collected at the retail stores
- The organics are returned to the distribution center within 1 day of being filled
- During normal operations organics are processed within 8 hours of arriving. Material is always processed within 48 hours of arrival.
- Organics are held in 5-sided sealed containers up until the point where they are loaded into the processing equipment.

Organic Processing

- Organics are only exposed during the loading process and are contained in the process within minutes of being loaded
- Process equipment is sealed and where applicable, negative air is pulled to treat any potential of malodorous compounds
- By design organics never touch the floor. The plant is washed periodically during the day to clean accidental spillage occurs, the
- Anaerobic digestion is inherently an odor neutral process when designed and operated correctly

Proposed Regulatory Tier

Through proper design, organics sourcing and organics handling facilities can operate with no adverse impact. Therefore we are asking CalRecycle to include projects like ours on the list of Excluded Activities (§ 17896.5. Excluded Activities) that do not require a full solid waste permit, but require LEA Notification, maintaining quarterly inspections. This proposed process would be similar to the permit structure of the Research Notification, which has proven successful for our application.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and appreciate your consideration of the exemption. We look forward to working together to achieve the best regulatory framework for California to support California's environmental and economic goals.

Sincerely,



Ryan Begin
CEO
FEED Resource Recovery