



**Jeffrey W. Cown, Director**

**Land Protection Branch**  
4244 International Parkway  
Suite 104  
Atlanta, Georgia 30354  
404-362-2537

December 5, 2024

Mr. Charles A. Kincaid  
Farm Manager  
Caton Farms, LLC  
882 Whitley Tucker Rd.  
Enigma, GA 31749

**SUBJECT: Notification of Permit by Rule Operation  
Class 2 Composting Facility  
Berrien County Caton Farms, LLC  
Approval No. 010-0020 PBR(CO)  
GEOS Submittal ID No. 891745**

Dear Mr. Kincaid:

The Recovered Materials Unit received your November 27, 2024, application for the Caton Farms, LLC Class 2 Composting Facility located at 882 Whitley Tucker Rd., Berrien County, Georgia 31749. Your Class 2 Composting Facility shall be deemed to have a solid waste handling permit-by-rule if it complies with the Rules for Solid Waste Management for this type of facility in 391-3-4-.16. The site must restrict feedstock acceptance to meet the definition of this class of facility, meet the Design and Operating Standards, and meet the Siting Criteria.

**Feedstock Restrictions:**

Feedstock restrictions for a Class 2 Composting Facility are given in 391-3-4-.16 (5) (b) 1.:

*(b) Class 2 Composting Facilities*

1. *Facilities composting Category A and B feedstocks that meet both of the following criteria may operate under a Permit-by-Rule for Composting Facilities:*
  - (i) *Facilities composting less than 500 tons of Category B feedstock per month.*
  - (ii) *For Class 2 facilities, Category B feedstocks shall be restricted to exclude the receipt of non-vegetative food processing residuals and manures.*

## **Design Standards:**

Design Standards for a Class 2 Composting Facility are given in 391-3-4-.16 (5) (b) 2.:

2. *The design standards for Class 2 facilities include:*
  - (i) *The composting area shall be constructed to maintain its structural integrity under operating conditions and be capable of supporting vehicular traffic.*
  - (ii) *The composting facility shall be adequate in size and capacity to manage the projected volume of compost and residue generated. The areas for storing feedstocks prior to processing shall be clearly defined and the maximum capacity specified.*
  - (iii) *For windrow operations, the maximum composting process windrow size and minimum composting process windrow spacing shall match the capability and requirements of the equipment used at the facility.*

## **Operating Standards:**

Operating Standards for a Class 2 Composting Facility are given in 391-3-4-.16 (5) (b) 3.:

3. *The operating standards for Class 2 facilities include:*
  - (i) *The composting facility shall have a sign at its entrance that lists the name of the facility, hours of operation, feedstocks accepted, and emergency contact information.*
  - (ii) *The composting facility shall have storm water control measures.*
  - (iii) *The composting facility shall prevent flow of contact water from the active composting area into surface water and curing or finished compost areas.*
  - (iv) *Suitable measures to control vectors shall be applied.*
  - (v) *Suitable measures to control odors shall be applied.*
  - (vi) *Suitable measures to prevent, control, and extinguish fires shall be applied.*
  - (vii) *By the end of each operating day, all incoming Category B feedstock must be processed into the active composting area, transferred to leak-proof containment, or mixed with bulking material and covered in a manner that minimizes nuisance odors and scavenging by vectors.*
  - (viii) *No material shall be stored in excess of the designated capacity.*
  - (ix) *Storage of finished compost on site is limited to 12 months, unless approved by the Division on a case-by-case basis.*
  - (x) *Non-compostable material and solid waste generated on site shall be stored in a waste container and then either recycled or disposed of at a permitted solid waste facility.*
  - (xi) *Facilities accepting Category B feedstocks from offsite shall track incoming feedstocks and finished compost. Records documenting compliance of the composting facility with these*

*Rules shall be kept for a minimum of three years in a form suitable for submission to or inspection by the Division. Records shall include the weight or volume (in tons or cubic yards) of the feedstocks accepted, total compost produced, and any amount sold or used. Records shall be retained at the composting facility unless an off- site storage location is approved by the Division.*

- (xii) Operation and management shall be under the supervision and control of an individual properly trained in the operation of such facilities at all times. Facility operations managers must be able to document training in the basics of composting facility operations.*
- (xiii) Notice of final closure shall be provided to the Director within 60 days from final receipt of feedstock. Any site not receiving feedstock in excess of 180 days, unless properly closed or otherwise approved by the Division, shall be deemed closed and in violation of these Rules. Notice of closure shall include documentation that all feedstocks and active, curing, and final compost materials have been removed from the facility and that the site has been stabilized in accordance with the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia.*

**Siting Criteria:**

Siting Criteria for a Class 2 Composting Facility are given in 391-3-4-.16 (6) (a):

*(a) Class 2 composting facilities shall comply with the following criteria:*

- 1. The facility shall not be located in the 100-year floodplain.*
- 2. A 50-foot undisturbed buffer shall be maintained between the composting operation and the property line.*
- 3. A 200-foot buffer shall be maintained between the composting operation and any adjacent residences and/or drinking water supply wells.*
- 4. A 50-foot buffer shall be maintained between the composting operation and all streams.*
- 5. A description of surrounding land uses up to a 1/2-mile radius shall be provided.*
- 6. Airport safety restrictions, as required by Rule 391-3-4-.05(1) (c) for MSWLF units, shall be met.*

A copy of the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4-.16 can be located at <http://rules.sos.ga.gov>. Please carefully review the definitions and requirements pertaining to your composting operation. Violation of any of the applicable permit-by-rule requirements will invalidate your permit by rule status.

This permit by Rule does not supersede any approvals or permits that may be required by any other existing federal, state, or local ordinances, and rules and regulations.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Richard Posey at (470) 604-7137.

Sincerely,

*Sarah W. Knapp*

Sarah Knapp  
Manager  
Recovered Materials Unit  
Recovered Materials and Abatement Program

cc: EPD Southwest District Office