Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

August 17, 2012

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: Full Circle Organics/Good Thunder Compost Facility–Approval of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order to Deny the Petition to Prepare an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), to Deny the Request for a Contested Case Hearing, and to Issue the Solid Waste Permit No. SW-662

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) proposes to issue the solid waste permit for Full Circle Organics/Good Thunder Compost Facility, SW-662, located in Lyra Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. This permit was on public notice from May 10, 2012, to June 11, 2012. A petition requesting the preparation of an EAW was filed with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and forwarded to the MPCA on July 23, 2012. On August 27, 2012, the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) will be making decisions related to this project. Enclosed for your information are copies of the Board packets for the proposed Full Circle Organics/Good Thunder Compost Project, and a copy of the Board Agenda.

The Board packets include:

- Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Denying the Petition to prepare an EAW
- Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying the Contested Case Hearing request on the proposed permit and to Issue the Solid Waste Permit
- Responses to written comments received for this project
- Draft Solid Waste Permit No. SW-662
- Comment letters received on Draft Permit, including a Contested Case Hearing request

There were eight comment letters received during the public comment period on the permit regarding the project and proposed permit, including one petition for a Contested Case Hearing. In an effort to save postage and resources, these comment letters and the above permit documents may be reviewed at the following locations: the MPCA offices in Mankato and Rochester, and online at the MPCA website provided below. Requests for copies of these comment letters and Board documents may be made by contacting the St. Paul office at 651-757-2063.

The Full Circle Organics/Good Thunder Compost Facility Permit Board Packets may also be viewed on our MPCA website at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/about/board/bdagenda.html.

The Board Items will be presented at the August 27, 2012, MPCA Board Meeting. Please refer to the enclosed Board Agenda for specific location, dates, and times. We encourage your attendance at the Board meeting. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed Board Items or the specifics of the meeting, feel free to contact Sherri Nachtigal of our staff at 507-206-2600.

Sincerely,

David J. Berke
Division Director
Resource Management & Assistance Division

DB/SMN:jw/cme
Enclosures

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Resource Management and Assistance Division
Prevention and Solid Waste Management Section

Board Item Cover Sheet

MEETING DATE:	August 27, 2012	**DATE MAILED:**	August 17, 2012
Presenter(s):	Sherri Nachtigal	**Phone Number:**	507-206-2600
Supervisor:	Paula Connell	**Phone Number:**	651-757-2285
Manager:	Steve Giddings	**Phone Number:**	651-757-2389
Division Director:	Dave Benke	**Phone Number:**	651-757-2221
Asst. Co.:	David Thornton	**Phone Number:**	651-757-2018
Deputy Commissioner:	Michelle Beeman	**Phone Number:**	651-757-2013
Attorney:	Ann Cohen	**Phone Number:**	651-757-1218

TITLE OF BOARD ITEM: Full Circle Organics/Good Thunder Compost Facility – Approval of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order to Deny Request for a Contested Case Hearing, and Authorization to Issue Solid Waste Permit SW-662

LOCATION: Lyra Township; Blue Earth County

TYPE OF ACTION: Contested Case Hearing Denial
Permit Issuance

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying the Request for a Contested Case Hearing and Authorizing Permit Reissuance

ISSUE STATEMENT:

On December 21, 2011, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) received an application to construct and operate a source separated compost facility from Full Circle Organics, LLC (Full Circle). The property is located in Lyra Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota, on 10 acres owned by MFS Farms, Inc. The facility capacity is proposed as 110 tons per day, or 25,000 tons per year, of source-separated compostable material (SSCM). Sources of SSCM include: food waste (both liquid and solid), paper waste, garden waste, and animal bedding. The Permittee proposes mixing yard waste and wood chips with the SSCM. Although the facility will be processing only SSCM and yard waste, the facility will be permitted as a solid waste compost facility meeting the standards under Minn. R. 7035.2836, subps. 4-7. The composting process will begin with mixing the SSCM with yard waste in a covered building on a concrete pad. After mixing, the material will compost on an asphalt pad located outside the building; the facility perimeter will be bermed and fenced. Odor will be controlled within the mixing building by drawing the air from the building through a biofilter. Doors will also be used to restrict air flow through the building. Odors will be controlled during the active compost process by ensuring the compost windrows are at an appropriate height, and are at the proper moisture content. Also, a stock pile of wood chips will also be kept on site to mix in the windrows to control any odor issues that may arise during the active compost process.

Printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% fibers from paper recycled by consumers.
Telephone Device for Deaf (TDD): 1-800-657-3864; Local 651-282-5332
This material can be made available in other formats, including Braille, large type or audio tape, upon request.

The permit was placed on Public Notice on May 10, 2012, a public information meeting was held on May 17, 2012, and the public notice period ended at 4:30 p.m. on June 11, 2012. The public notice period was extended for two parties for an additional week (ending at 4:30 p.m. on June 18, 2012), because an incomplete permit application had been provided to them for review during the public notice period. The MPCA staff received eight written comments regarding the draft permits, and one written petition on behalf of five individuals for a Contested Case Hearing. The MPCA staff recommends that the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) deny the contested case hearing and issue the permit by adopting the Suggested Staff Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for the Solid Waste Permit.
   Appendix A List of Comment Letters
   Appendix B Response to Comments
   Appendix C Petition for Contested Case Hearing
2. Attachment 2 Draft Solid Waste Permit No. SW-662