



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

February 24, 2023

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Resource Solutions  
48 Liberty Dr., Suite A  
Hermon, ME 04401  
[Jeff.McBurnie@casella.com](mailto:Jeff.McBurnie@casella.com)

RE: Request for Emergency Approval – Hawk Ridge Compost Facility

Dear Jeff McBurnie,

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) received your request on February 17, 2023 for approval to unload, store and reload sludges at its Hawk Ridge Compost Facility (HRCF). The Department is aware that many municipal wastewater utilities in Maine that utilize the Juniper Ridge Landfill facility (JRL) for disposal of sludge have recently been notified by the JRL operator that reduced amounts or no amount of sludge will be accepted at the landfill due to stability concerns. The Department is also aware that Casella Resource Solutions ceased accepting sludge from Maine municipal wastewater utilities for composting at HRCF, but HRCF has maintained all authorizations under License S-020115 and subsequent revisions, and continued composting sludge from wastewater facilities outside of Maine. The Department is also aware that wastewater utilities in Maine are exploring management options for sludge but many facilities have no immediate alternative to their established arrangement for disposal at the JRL facility, have very limited capacity for storage of sludge, and cannot safely operate their wastewater treatment systems without removing sludge from their systems. The Department recognizes that the recent inability of the JRL facility to accept sludge for disposal has created an emergency situation for these wastewater utilities.

In addition to the activities specifically authorized in License S-020115 and subsequent revisions, and subject to all applicable provisions therein, the Department hereby approves:

- Reloading of sludge from Maine wastewater treatment facilities for transport off-site;
- Receiving sludge for reloading in a dedicated bay of the receiving building;
- Limiting the amount of sludge stored in the receiving building for the purpose of reloading to 105 cubic yards (~90 wet tons);
- Storing sludge prior to reloading in the receiving building for a maximum of 36 hours; and
- Storing sludge in no more than 10 covered, leakproof trailers.

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6  
BANGOR, MAINE 04401  
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND  
312 CANCO ROAD  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303


PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

As a condition of this temporary, emergency approval, Casella Resource Solutions must submit a monthly registry of all sludge received at the facility during the term of this approval, including facility of origin, received amount, composted amount and reloaded amount.

This temporary, emergency approval expires on August 31, 2023. If Casella Resource Solutions wants to continue receiving and reloading sludge for transport off-site or wishes to increase sludge storage capacity at the facility beyond this expiration date, please contact the Department to determine what type of license modification may be necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Pollock at (207) 592-8343 or [jim.c.pollock@maine.gov](mailto:jim.c.pollock@maine.gov).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melanie Loyzim", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner