

Travis County Siting of Solid Waste Facilities Ordinance
Application to Organics By Gosh
Compost Facility at 13602 FM 969
TCEQ Solid Waste Facility No. 47050
March 1, 2017

- No certification can be found in the TCEQ or Travis County records in response to recent requests regarding whether the Organics By Gosh facility referenced above is in compliance with the applicable Travis County Siting of Solid Waste Facility Ordinance (Siting Ordinance). Key siting ordinance provisions are attached. The City should not proceed with contract negotiations with Organics By Gosh if the compost facility is not operating in compliance with the Travis County Siting Ordinance.
- If the Organics By Gosh facility is not in compliance with the Travis County Siting Ordinance it cannot accept food waste for composting.
- The relevant provisions of the Travis County Siting Ordinance require a commercial food waste composting facility to be located at least 1,500 feet away from a residence, church, school, and several other types of receptors, as well as at least one mile away from any neighborhood (defined to be nine or more residences with a density of one residence per acre).
- The attached aerial photo from October 2014, which was the approximate time the above referenced facility's request for approval to receive and compost food waste was being reviewed by the TCEQ, shows this facility is much closer than the 1,500 feet allowed by the Travis County Siting Ordinance to a few residences, a church, a school, and several neighborhoods.
- The attached aerial photo indicates by the labels on the photo there are about six individual residences, one church and one school within the prohibited 1,500 foot distance from each of the compost units at this facility.
- The attached aerial photo indicates by the labels on the photo there are least seven neighborhoods within the prohibited 1 mile distance from each of the compost units at this facility.
- Unless this commercial facility has received a variance from Travis County or written consent from the affected receptors, it cannot compost food waste at this facility. A recent inquiry to TCEQ and Travis County revealed no variance or consents.
- The City should confirm the Organics By Gosh compost facility is in compliance with the Travis County Siting Ordinance for a Major Facility before delivering food waste to it for processing through composting. The same thing can be said about other Organics By Gosh facilities with or without appropriate authorizations within Travis County.

Travis County Siting of Solid Waste Facilities Ordinance
Chapter 62 Key Provisions
March 1, 2017

62.004 - Siting criteria for major facilities which includes food waste composting facilities

Solid waste may be processed and disposed of at a major facility only if

- (1) it is located at least 1500 feet from all:
 - (A) public water wells;
 - (B) schools or day-care centers;
 - (C) places of worship,
 - (D) health care facilities;
 - (E) public parks and historic facilities; and
 - (F) individual residences; it is located at least 5280 feet from all neighborhoods;

62.001 – Definition of processing and disposal includes composting

(9) “Processing and disposal” means the discharging, depositing, injecting, dumping, spilling, leaking, placing, collection, handling, transportation, storage, or processing of solid waste, including the systematic control of the activities of generation, source separation, treatment, composting, recycling beneficial use, resource recovery, or land application.

62.002 – General exemption does not include food waste composting

(7) any activity that otherwise qualifies as solid waste processing and disposal, but constitutes a de minimis activity, including collection stations for household hazardous waste or citywide or roadside cleanups; composting and land application of source-separated yard trimmings, clean wood material, vegetative material, manure, and paper; mulching operations; agricultural operations that compost and use agricultural materials onsite; and disposal of litter or other solid waste generated by an individual on that individual’s own land for other than commercial purposes not exceeding 2000 pounds per year; a minor change to the pattern or place of processing and disposal within the outermost perimeter of a facility’s footprint that does not increase the maximum height or overall volumetric capacity of the facility, or any similar activity that the Executive Manager determines to be de minimis.

OBG 13602 FM 969 SITE

