

# Food Recovery Project

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003  
Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm  
Location: Teleconference  
Purpose: Discuss the development of a sampling and analysis plan for the proposed food waste composting facility in Sarasota.

### Participants:

Francine Joyal: FDEP Tallahassee	Jean Nutter: Sarasota County
Kim Ford: FDEP District	Jesse White: RMG
Susan Pelz: FDEP District	Cory Jamieson: RMG
Monica Ozores-Hampton: SWFREC	

### Topics Discussed

#### *A. Discussion Document*

The discussion document that RMG prepared and submitted to participants prior to the conference outlined specific areas of the composting process requiring significant capital investment to comply with regulations. Conference participants reviewed this document and the main points were reviewed in a discussion led by Jesse White of RMG. This discussion was centered about the idea of a sampling plan that is based upon the regulatory challenges faced by the project.

- The first item discussed as a part of the document was the receiving pad. FDEP indicated that the following might be germane for a sampling plan to consider.
  - A leachate collection tank does not have to be double-walled if it is above ground.
  - Leachate from the pad is regulated as leachate.
  - The sampling plan should show that leachate complies with Department ground and surface water criteria.
  - The first half-inch of a rain event will contain analytes of concern and they will be the most concentrated.
  - A double liner pond is required for leachate, but not stormwater.
  - A roof might serve as an alternative to a collection system
- Compost Pad
  - A sampling plan should show leachate and water from storm events do not violate Department water quality standards.
  - A Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP), EPA method, could be a valuable tool in analyzing deminimus compost effects upon harvest.
- Curing
  - Curing on native soils exposes compost to weed seeds, nematodes, etc.
  - Monitoring of rain event leachate from curing piles for Department water quality criteria will be valuable to a sampling plan.
  - A pad would be required for SPLP data to be accurate.
  - Much of the curing process may take place inside the Ag-Bag, so little change in leachate would be observed over a short curing period outside the bag.

As a result of these discussion points a number of conclusions were arrived at. The data would be presented to the department as a body of information, the use of this information would be decided

by FDEP. This includes possible rule changes and permitting implications dependant upon the results.

RMG raised concerns that if a permit is required to operate a compost facility on a farm, to be used on its fields, then many farmers would opt not to develop an operation. Commercial operations would be expected to be subject to permitting as normal.

FDEP indicated that if the leachate from the facility was shown to adhere to the water quality standards of the Department then a rule change might not be necessary to ease permitting of future facilities.

FDEP Tallahassee indicated that an alternate procedure request might be useful. The request would include the data collected by the project and the desired procedural modifications. This alternate procedure would show that the same environmental protection is provided by the new procedures as the current procedures written into rule. Tallahassee would review this request and submit it to the districts for their input. If they agree that the new procedure affords the same environmental protection then the facility can adopt their alternate procedure. However, this procedure will be applicable only to that particular facility and similar operations would have to undergo the same process.

RMG put forth the idea that this project could provide a blueprint for future Ag-Bag operations. If a commercial operation were to develop using the same techniques outlined by this project then FDEP would know what environmental impacts to expect. All agreed this could streamline both permitting, and alternate procedure requests.

### ***C. Submittal Process***

Due to time constraints imposed on the project, RMG suggested the sampling plan be completed two weeks from the time of the meeting. All parties agreed that this was a realistic goal. This will require extensive communication between the particular parties involved and necessitates the creation of a committee to review and give feedback as the sampling plan develops. Specifically the plan will address what parameters are being analyzed for, how often samples are being taken, and at what part of the facility

A work group was discussed and developed for the purposes of the plan's creation and implementation. The group will consist of the following parties.

FDEP District – Kim Ford  
FDEP Tallahassee – Francine Joyal  
RMG – Cory Jamieson  
Sarasota County – Jean Nutter and Paul Wingler  
Consultant – Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton

RMG will develop the sampling plan and submit it for review to the above parties. They will supply feedback and comments for revision. RMG will make the suggested changes and submit a final draft to FDEP District and Tallahassee.