



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Southwest District Office  
13051 North Telecom Parkway  
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637-0926  
October 8, 2008

Charlie Crist  
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp  
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole  
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL 7008 0150 0003 4893 7094  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Pasco County Board of County Commissioners  
West Pasco Government Center  
c/o Mr. John Power  
7530 Little Road  
New Port Richey, Florida 34654

RE: Warning Letter # WL08-0014SW51SWD  
Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility  
Conditions of Certification # PA 87-23B  
Pasco County

Dear Mr. Power:

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (County) of possible violations of law for which the County may be responsible and to seek the County's cooperation in resolving the matter. A July 29, 2008 Department inspection conducted at the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility indicates that violations of Florida Statutes and Rules may exist:

- 1) Leachate was not properly managed at the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility (facility). Department staff observed leachate mixing with stormwater in several areas of the facility, as described below:

The ash conveyor that connects the grizzly scalper area to the Ash Building had not been operating for several days prior to the inspection. Ash was being transported between the grizzly scalper and Ash Building with a loader. A facility employee was washing the driveway area between the two buildings where ash had fallen on the ground. Department staff observed leachate, which was created by water contacting ash, flowing toward the stormwater culvert located under the tipping floor exit ramp. During the inspection, facility staff placed sandbags about 25 feet from the culvert to prevent contact water from reaching it.

In the grizzly scalper area, Department staff observed that the containment curb was damaged (concrete had worn away in one section and only rebar remained). Department staff noted that the automatic sump pump was not operating properly in this area. A facility employee tried to manually override the sump pump, but was not successful. During the inspection, a heavy rain fell and filled the sump with leachate, which flowed past the damaged containment curb and into the driveway (non-contact stormwater area). Department staff

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followed the flow of leachate and observed that it flowed past the sandbags to the stormwater culvert.

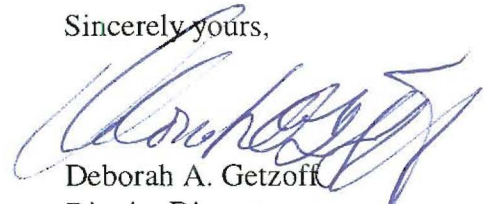
The Ash Building contained a significant amount of leachate due to pressure cleaning of the ceiling and equipment. The sump pump located at the entrance to the Ash Building was not operating properly and efforts to manually override it during the inspection were not successful. Evidence that leachate had flowed beyond the ash building's leachate collection area into the grass located at the western edge of the driveway was observed. The gravity sump located at the exit of the Ash Building also appeared to be clogged with sediment/ash, which caused leachate to back up into the exit driveway area.

Conditions of Certification PA 87-23B, issued August 24, 1988, Section XIV.D.16 states, "Stormwater shall be managed as required by F.A.C. 62-701.400(9). The system shall...avoid the mixing of stormwater with leachate." Conditions of Certification PA 87-23B, Section XIV.H.4 states, "All liquids from residuals shall be contained." The facility's approved Ash Management Plan, dated May 1997 states, "Each residue discharger is equipped with an emergency bypass transfer chute to permit uninterrupted removal of residue if any component of the ash conveying system becomes inoperative. The transfer chutes are designed to provide emergency bypass of the main vibrating conveyor by directing residue directly to a dumpster. The dumpster is transported to the ash building via a forklift."

The deficiencies noted above and any other activities at your facility that may be contributing to violations of State rules and statutes should be ceased. The operation of a facility in violation of State statutes or rules may result in liability for damages and restoration, and the judicial imposition of civil penalties up to \$10,000 per violation per day pursuant to Sections 403.141 and 403.161, Florida Statutes. It is typically Department policy to initiate enforcement action and seek civil penalties of **\$3,700** for conditions such as those described above.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that this Warning Letter is part of an agency investigation, preliminary to agency action in accordance with Section 120.57(4), Florida Statutes. The County is requested to contact Ms. Stephanie Watson of this office at telephone number (813) 632-7600, extension 451, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this Warning Letter to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter. The Department is interested in reviewing any facts the County may have that will assist in determining whether any violations have occurred. The County may bring anyone to the meeting that the County feels could help resolve this matter. We look forward to the County's cooperation in completing the investigation and resolution of this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Deborah A. Getzoff  
District Director  
Southwest District

DAG/sw

cc: Cindy Mulkey, Siting Office, Tallahassee (email)  
William Kutash, P.G., FDEP SWD (email)  
Susan Pelz, P.E., FDEP SWD (email)  
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