**Meeting Minutes**

**Waste Management Compost Project**

**Topic:** Discuss the possibility of pre-consumer vegetative waste composting at Vista or Pine Ridge facilities.

**Date:** May 17, 2010

**Location:** FDEP Central District

**Attendees:** Tom Lubozynski, FDEP George Cheryan, FDEP

Gloria-Jean DePradine, FDEP Kim Rush, FDEP

Sandeep Janwadkar, FDEP Jay Davoll, City of Apopka

John Gundlach, Garick Jim Christiansen, WM

Irvin Slike, WM Paul Bermillo, WM

Sheree Grant, WM Francine Joyal, FDEP

**Discussion**

**Summary:** Waste Management is investigating the composting of pre-consumer vegetative waste at either their Vista Class III Landfill or Pine Ridge Closed Class III Landfill. Waste Management’s intent is to start with a small, simple process and expand it as necessary based on customer needs and market potential.

**Permit/Registration:** The composting of pre-consumer vegetative waste qualifies for a registration under Chapter 62-709. Since the site to be used for composting has a solid waste permit, the compost operations may be added to the existing permit through a modification or at time of renewal. Also, the compost operation may be registered until the next solid waste permit renewal. The existing operation plan for the landfill must be updated to include the composting process. Waste Management inquired about the possibility of qualifying the project as a pilot project. The Department informed Waste Management that in regards to pilot projects, there would be a limit on the time (18 months maximum) and volume of the project. Also, the cost for Department approval would be greater than that of a registration.

**Location:** The location for the composting operation will be either Vista Class III Landfill or Pine Ridge Closed Class III Landfill. Both sites are owned and operated by Waste Management. The possibility of locating the process on top of the closed Class III Landfill at Pine Ridge Closed Class III Landfill discussed. This was identified by Waste Management as their preferred location because of space. The closed Class III has an impermeable cap and 2’of soil cover. FDEP stated that per Chapter 62-701, nothing may be done on the closed landfill that may potentially disturb or compromise the cap and cover. A composting process may be located on top of the closed Class III; a weight analysis of the process (compost waste plus equipment weight) would need to be done to determine the effects, if any, to the cap and cover.

**Leachate Collection:** Whether or not a leachate collection system would be required was discussed. It was clarified that a process which qualifies for a compost registration does not require leachate collection.

**Process:** The composting method has not been determined. Different composting methods including windrows and in-vessel are being investigated. The use of additives, animal bedding and manure (small amounts), food stained cardboard, paper, and florist waste may also be incorporated. Waste Management indicated that they do not intend to compost biosolids. The intent is to produce high quality compost which will be screened and bagged for sale.

**Odor:** Odors from the composting process is the biggest concern of FDEP. Waste Management also conveyed concern for odors; their process design will reduce the potential for odors. Waste Management stated the intent to use odor misters similar to those in use at Vista Landfill.