



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Eugene Office

165 East 7th Avenue, Suite 100

Eugene, OR 97401

(541) 686-7838

FAX (541) 686-7551

TTY 711

November 3, 2017

### TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Tom Crist, Parks Supervisor/Solid Waste Manager and Wasteshed Representative:

[tcrist@co.klamath.or.us](mailto:tcrist@co.klamath.or.us)

Klamath County Community Development Dept., Solid Waste Division

305 Main St.

Klamath Falls, OR 97601

RE: Conditional Material Handling Concurrence

Dear Tom,

As you are aware, China intends to prohibit the import of certain mixed paper and plastic grades beginning on Jan. 1, 2018. Additionally, China has announced a new and exceedingly stringent recyclable contamination standard of 0.3 percent. China is the main market for Oregon's recyclable mixed paper and plastic. This has created a condition where the primary market for much of Oregon's recyclable materials is severely constrained and in jeopardy of disappearing.

In an effort to meet the tightened contamination standards, recycling processing facilities have slowed their sorting lines. This has resulted in a slower throughput of materials. The flow of materials from Oregonians sent for recycling has not slowed to match this constraint. Without an outlet for the collected materials, sorting and storage capacity have become constrained. In some cases, processing and storage capacity have already been exceeded and recycling costs exceed disposal costs.

DEQ, working closely with representatives from the recycling industry and local governments has initiated a short-term stopgap solution to help alleviate the flow of materials throughout the collection and processing system. When all options to find markets for recyclable commodities have been exhausted, DEQ concurs that landfilling these materials on a temporary basis is an unfortunate but needed option at this time.

This concurrence is subject to the conditions set forth below:

**Effective date:** Nov. 3, 2017.

**Duration:** Interim review Feb. 1, 2018 with a May 1, 2018 expiration date. Adjustments may be made if conditions change.

### **Required conditions**

The following required conditions must be met prior to disposal of the materials identified below. DEQ may in the future also verify that the conditions continue to be met.

- 1.1. Prior to disposal, good faith efforts were made to find recycling processors or end markets for the materials. (Documentation that at least three processors or end markets were solicited should be available upon DEQ request); and

- 1.2. The material disposed of can no longer be collected (including consideration of storage, processing and safety constraints) and sold at a net cost equal to or less than the cost of collection and disposal. (Financial documentation demonstrating this should be available upon DEQ request). Where no feasible market exists, costs for recycling are assumed to exceed the costs for disposal; and
- 1.3. Impacted local governments have been informed and required approval obtained.

### **Notification Summary**

The following information has been provided to DEQ:

- 1.4. Material types
  - Mixed Commingled Recyclables (Unsorted), Mixed Scrap Paper, and Rigid Plastic Containers (Unsorted) – all commingled for transit at the Klamath Falls transfer station.
- 1.5. Estimated amounts of material to be disposed per month
  - MCR, MSP and RPC: 96 tons, currently on-site at Rogue Material Recovery in White City; also less than 30 tons to be collected between now and whenever the county can finalize suspension of collection of these materials at its 11 recycling depots (assumed to be less than one month's time).
- 1.6. Estimated amount of recyclable material sent to market or a processing facility for recycling
  - 0 tons/month (for the materials listed above).
- 1.7. Sources
  - All 11 county recycling depots (receiving self-haul material only – no curbside material)
- 1.8. Geographic area of material origin.
  - Klamath County and the incorporated cities of Bonanza, Chiloquin, Klamath Falls, Malin and Merrill.
- 1.9. Proposed start date
  - Nov. 3, 2017.
- 1.10 Proposed disposal site
  - Dry Creek Landfill.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The following information shall be completed by an authorized representative, and submitted to DEQ by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month until the end date or the expiration date. A web link for data submittal will be provided.

- 2.1. Actual material types disposed (i.e. mixed plastics codes 3-7)
- 2.2. Actual amounts of material disposed
- 2.3. Actual sources of materials — Commercial, Residential or Depot
- 2.4. Actual geographic area of material origin (City, County, etc.)
- 2.5. Actual disposal date(s)
- 2.6. Actual disposal location(s)
- 2.7. Actual amount of recyclable material sent to market or a processing facility for recycling
- 2.8. What efforts have you made to determine if recycling of this material can resume?

Provided all the information submitted above is correct, DEQ concurs that landfilling of these materials on a temporary basis is an unfortunate but necessary option. Please let DEQ know if any of the above information changes. DEQ will provide a web link to you for you to submit your monthly report to us. We will notify you when it is available.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Filip at 541-686-7868 or [filip.craig@deq.state.or.us](mailto:filip.craig@deq.state.or.us).

Sincerely,



Brian Fuller  
Manager Western Region  
Materials Management and Hazardous Waste Programs

BRF/ccf

ec: Ms. Betty Tyree, Mayor, Bonanza, OR: [bonanza@fireserve.net](mailto:bonanza@fireserve.net)  
Mr. Mark Cobb, Mayor, Chiloquin, OR: [chiloquin@centurylink.net](mailto:chiloquin@centurylink.net)  
Mr. Nathan Cherpeski, City Manager, Klamath Falls, OR: [ncherpeski@klamathfalls.city](mailto:ncherpeski@klamathfalls.city)  
Mr. Gary R. Zieg, Mayor, Malin, OR: [gzieg@centurytel.net](mailto:gzieg@centurytel.net)  
Ms. Oma Rowley, City Recorder, Merrill, OR: [cityofmerrill@centurytel.net](mailto:cityofmerrill@centurytel.net)  
Mr. Lee Fortier, General Manager, Dry Creek Landfill – Rogue Disposal & Recycling, Inc.:  
[lfortier@roguedisposal.com](mailto:lfortier@roguedisposal.com)  
Ms. Jamie Jones, Natural Resource Specialist 4, DEQ – The Dalles  
Mr. Craig C. Filip, MMTA, DEQ – Eugene  
Ms. Denise Miller, WR Solid Waste Permit Coordinator, DEQ – Eugene