

Sent Via Electronic Mail
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July 14, 2025

RANDY VAN KOOTEN
SKUNK RIVER COMPOST
301 HILLSIDE DRIVE
LYNNVILLE, IA 50153
vkfarms@netins.net

RE: Notice of Violation: Processing Location & Stormwater Control [567 IAC 105.7(2)]
Skunk River Compost, 10594 E. 158th St. S. (south site) & SW¼, NE¼, Sec. 13, T78N, R17W (north site)
Lynnville, IA (Jasper Co.)
Permit No. 50-COM-01-22; Complaint Nos. 35108, 35153, 35196

Mr. Van Kooten:

This office received several complaints recently regarding your solid waste composting operation southeast of Lynnville.

Complaint No. 35108 was received on June 13, 2025. It was reported that many tanker truck loads of liquid were disposed of at the north (bulking agent) site. I visited the site on June 19, 2025. There was some odor on-site and there was leachate seepage along the north side of the site. I also found a metal trough containing a pump. Gray liquid was pooled amidst bulking agent piles nearby. You made an inquiry previously about disposing of dry milk wash water at the north site. I told you that only bulking agents were allowed at the north site. I also stated this in a notice of violation letter dated November 4, 2024. I talked to you the next day and you admitted to having allowed the milk wash water to be dumped at the north site. This is a violation of Special Provision 9 of the composting permit which only allows bulking agents to be stored at the north site.

Complaint No. 35153 was received on June 23, 2025. It was reported that a large unscreened compost stockpile had been placed on your property north of the residence at 5124 16th St. in Poweshiek County (east of the south composting site). You indicated that screening would take place at that site. Screening is part of the composting process, so it must be conducted on the property covered by the composting permit.

Complaint No. 35196 was received on July 7, 2025. It was reported that stormwater basins at the north site were overflowing following heavy rainfall and likely entering the North Skunk River to the north. I visited the site on July 8, 2025, and found the basins were not overflowing, but I saw evidence of recent overflowing on the north bank and ditch. You reported that the overflow did occur after several inches of rainfall, and that you had subsequently pumped the basin liquid onto bulking agent piles to stop the overflow. Permit Special Provision 9 requires that stormwater be controlled.

The permit for your composting operation expires September 12, 2025. You have submitted a permit renewal application. The issues described in this letter must be resolved and a plan to prevent their recurrence must be implemented before permit renewal can occur. The north storage site has become problematical. You are highly encouraged to eliminate this site and merge the entire composting operation (including bulking agent storage) to the south site.

Continued noncompliance with solid waste composting regulations will result in referral to the Iowa DNR Legal Service Bureau and a monetary penalty. You may contact me [515-238-7871; bill.gross@dnr.iowa.gov] or this office with any questions or comments. Thank you for your effort.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Bill Gross
Date: 2025.07.14 12:10:46 -05'00'

Bill Gross
Environmental Specialist, Field Office #5

c.: [Theresa Stiner](#), Land Quality Bureau, Iowa DNR (via email)
Kevin Luetters, Jasper Co. Environmental Health, kluetters@jasperia.org (via email)

June 19, 2025 (Complaint No. 35108)
North Site

South Site



June 23, 2025 (Complaint No. 35153)
Poweshiek Co. stockpile for screening



North Site



South Site stormwater basin

