

January 29, 2026

CEDAR RAPIDS/LINN COUNTY SOLID WASTE AGENCY
KARMEN MCSHANE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VIA EMAIL: kmcshane@solidwasteagency.org
1954 COUNTY HOME ROAD
MARION, IA 52302

SUBJECT: Compost Inspection – CRLCSWA #3
Permit No. 57-COM-20-95

Dear Ms. McShane,

Enclosed is the report of the recent inspection of the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency Compost Facility (Site #3) conducted by Chad Kehrli of this office.

If you have any questions about the inspection or report, please contact Mr. Kehrli or this office at 563-927-2640.

Sincerely,

Environmental Specialist Senior, FIELD OFFICE #1

c: IDNR Solid Waste, Des Moines
Efile: 57 SW CRLCSWA#3 cvtlr 012726 cek
Zac Hornung, Operations Director (zhornung@solidwasteagency.org)

FIELD OFFICE 1, 1101 COMMERCIAL CT., SUITE 10, MANCHESTER IA 52057

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**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SOLID WASTE COMPOSTING (COM) INSPECTION FORM**

Permit No.:57-COM-20-95	County: Linn
Facility Name: Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency (Site #3)	Facility Address: 2250 A Street SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Phone Number: 319-377-5290	
Responsible Official: Karmin McShane	Mailing Address: Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency 1954 County Home Road Marion, IA 52302
Phone Number: 319-777-2627	
Person(s) Present: 1) Karmen McShane 2) Zac Hornung (319)560-3838 3) Jason Stout	
Date of This Inspection: 01/27/2026	Date of Last Inspection: 06/18/2024

**Be advised your facility may require, due to either SIC code or onsite management practices, an NPDES General Permit #1 (Stormwater permit).*

IAC 567 Chapter 105.3: Requirements for Composting Facilities <small>(Not Exempt per Chapter 105.2)</small>		Yes	No	NA
Non-Exempt Composting Requirements	105.3(1) Does the composting facility meet the following setback distance requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 feet from any existing inhabited residence – not including the residence of the person owning/operating the compost facility at the time the application was received by the department • Facility is outside of a wetland • 200 feet from a public well • 100 feet from a private well • 50 feet from a property line • 100 feet from flowing or intermittent streams, lakes, or ponds 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(2) Is composting being performed in a manner that minimizes the formation of compost leachate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(3) Are measures being taken to prevent water from running onto the facility and to prevent compost leachate and runoff from leaving the facility?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(4) Is the facility maintained so as to minimize ponding of water and is any ponding that does occur being corrected within 48 hours of ponding event?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(5) Is composting being done on an all-weather surface that will permit accessibility during periods of inclement weather and prevent contamination of surface and groundwater?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(6) Is solid waste that cannot be composted or removed during composting being properly disposed of?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(7) Are solid waste materials being managed through the entire process to minimize odors, dust, noise, litter and vectors that may create nuisance conditions or a public health hazard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(8) Is storage of cured or finished compost limited to 18 months unless written approval was granted from the department?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(9) Is compost that is offered for sale registered with IDALS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.3(10) Does the finished compost that is applied to land have human-inert materials such as glass, metal, and plastic in excess of 1.5 percent by dry weight or is larger than 13mm (0.512 inches)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Composting occurs on an all-weather surface. Solid waste that cannot be composted is placed in a roll-off dumpster and properly disposed of as needed, and the City of Cedar Rapids is charged for disposal. The compost operation is well organized with defined areas for material received, wood chips, compost windrows, and curing compost. A scale is present with an operator to weigh material. Employees are on site to screen the yard waste received in order to minimize any solid waste. Storm water runoff is collected by a series of ponds and is reintroduced to windrows when moisture is needed. It was reported that these ponds do not have a discharge outlet. Final compost is screened to ensure clean material is being sent out to the customers, while the larger pieces screened out of the final product are trucked to the landfill to use as cover. Finished compost is provided to Linn County residents free of charge; business customers pay a fee to receive it.

IAC 567 Chapter 105.4: Requirements for Yard Waste Composting Facilities		Yes	No	NA
Yard Waste Composting Requirements	<p>105.4(1) Was both the department's central and field offices properly notified in writing with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location of the composting facility Legal description of the facility Landowner's name, telephone number, and mailing address Responsible party's name, telephone number, and mailing address Annual capacity of the facility Method of composting to be employed Source of the yard waste and any necessary bulking agent. The description must include a description of service area defined in terms of municipalities wherein sources of the material are located 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>105.4(2) Does the composting facility have a permanent sign posted at the entrance specifying the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of operation Operating hours Materials which are accepted or the statement "All materials must have prior approval" Telephone number of 24-hour contact person 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.4(3) Is the composting facility area large enough for the volume of yard waste composted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.4(4) Is the yard waste being taken out of the collection container before being composted, unless the containers are compostable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.4(5) Are aerobic conditions being maintained in accordance with best management practices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>105.4(6) Is the following information being reported to the department and maintained on file for a period of three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the department reporting form 542-3276C All applicable sections of the form completed Form 542-3276C was submitted by July 31st of each year in operation 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: This facility has more than adequate space to conduct composting operations. This facility is permitted to compost up to 100,000 tons per year and composted 20,265 tons in fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) per their most recent Annual Compliance Facility Report.

IAC 567 Chapter 105.9: Solid Waste Composting Operating Requirements		Yes	No	NA	
Composting	105.9(1)“a”	Is access restricted with a lockable gate at the entrance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.9(1)“b”	Is access only allowed when an employee, agent, or representative of the facility is on duty?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.9(1)“c”	Is emergency access provided and fire lanes maintained as to provide access to firefighting equipment as required by the local fire department?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.9(2)	Is a permanent sign posted with name of operation, operating hours, materials accepted, and phone number of 24-hour emergency contact?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.9(3)	Are all materials that are accepted incorporated into the composting process within 24 hours of receipt? <i>(Note: Extra time for storage is allowed for these materials if specified in the plan and approved by the department)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.9(4)	Is the facility, at a minimum, testing the following in accordance with the most recent version of Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost or other testing procedures as approved by the department; • Twice weekly temperature readings of compost piles, batches, and windrows in order to meet “Processes to Further Reduce Pathogens”, compost must be held above 55 degrees Celsius for an appropriate amount of time. • Weekly moisture levels of compost piles, batches, and windrows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
105.9(4)“c”(1)	Is the compost that is land applied able to meet the following requirements: • Density of fecal coliform is less than 1000 MPN per gram of total solids (dry weight basis) • Density of Salmonella sp. bacteria in compost shall be less than 3 MPN per four grams of total solids (dry weight basis)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments: A permanent sign and a locking gate are present. Windrows are turned based on temperature and need, and are monitored twice per week for temperature and weekly for moisture. Records documenting this were available and reviewed on site.

IAC 567 Chapter 105.9: Solid Waste Composting Operating Requirements (Cont'd)		Yes	No	NA																		
Composting Operating Requirements	105.9(4)“c”(2)	Did the testing of finished product meet the following levels? The concentration of the following chemicals shall be less than or equal to the following: <table><tr><td><u>METAL</u></td><td><u>CONCENTRATION mg/kg dry weight</u></td></tr><tr><td>Arsenic (As)</td><td>41</td></tr><tr><td>Cadmium (Cd)</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td>Copper (Cu)</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>Lead (Pb)</td><td>300</td></tr><tr><td>Mercury (Hg)</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Nickel (Ni)</td><td>420</td></tr><tr><td>Selenium (Se)</td><td>36</td></tr><tr><td>Zinc (Zn)</td><td>2,800</td></tr></table>			<u>METAL</u>	<u>CONCENTRATION mg/kg dry weight</u>	Arsenic (As)	41	Cadmium (Cd)	39	Copper (Cu)	1,500	Lead (Pb)	300	Mercury (Hg)	17	Nickel (Ni)	420	Selenium (Se)	36	Zinc (Zn)	2,800
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	Zinc (Zn)	2,800																				
105.10	Is the person responsible for daily operation of the facility certified by a department approved program? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kirkwood Compost Operator Training, or• Midwest Extension Composting School																					

	105.11	Is the following information being reported to the department and maintained on file for a period of three years; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing results reported on form 542-3276C • Types and weight of compostable material and bulking agent, in tons, accepted by the facility annually? • Weight of compost, in tons, removed from the facility annually • Are a copy of the plan, permit, annual reports, and current storm water pollution prevention plan available 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	105.12	Was an annual report for the previous fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30 submitted to the department by July 31 of each year by the permitted solid waste composting facility? <i>(Note: The report shall be submitted using Form 542-3276C, provided by the department, and all applicable sections of the form must be completed)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Annual records are being submitted to this Department. Testing results were reviewed and were well within acceptable limits. Records are being maintained on site as required.

Summary of Requirements:	Compliance Date:
1) None	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	

Summary of Reminders:
1)None
2)
3)
4)
5)

Summary of Recommendations:
1) None
2)
3)
4)

Inspector: 	Reviewer:
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