

TRACIE DAVIES
Director

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

September 17, 2019

Hasan Alkhayri
Sr. Vice President
Hatch
88 East Broad Street
Suite 1980
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Stormwater Drainage Manual (SWDM) Type II Variance Request
Southwesterly Composting Facility – Odor Reduction Improvements

Mr. Alkhayri:

The Variance Review Committee has met and reviewed the subject Variance Request on July 1, 2019. The Request was submitted to the City on May 20, 2019. The applicant has formally requested a variance to the SWDM Section 3.1 General Criteria Stormwater Quality Controls of the SWDM. More specifically, discharge of storm water into a sanitary sewer is sought to be approved due to contamination from the WWTP sludge processing on the site.

As part of the Variance review process, the subject Variance request was posted on the City website on May 20, 2019 to solicit public comments. No public comments were received.

The May 20 submittal presented the Preferred Alternative which includes collection of storm water along with compost leachate in an existing 1.5 million gallon basin expanded to 4.9 million gallons. The expansion of the basin will increase the level of service from a 2-yr storm to 100-yr storm. The basin will discharge through a gravity sewer 3,300 feet upstream of the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWWTP).

To reduce the impact to SWWTP, clean water from roof drains from the Vehicle Service Building semi bay, Composting Dispensing Shelter, Screening Area, and half of the Solar Drying Building will be separated from the contaminated flows and discharged to existing storm water outlets.

The submitted Variance Request was found to be in compliance with the SWDM Non-Stream Protection Type II Variance Application requirements. Three alternatives were considered within the application – Full Compliance (no impact), Minimal Impact and the Preferred Alternative. Upon reviewing the proposed Minimal Impact and No Impact Alternatives, the Committee accepted the applicant's arguments that these alternatives would cause an undue hardship, and make the proposed improvement unviable.




In light of the above, the subject Variance Request (Preferred Alternative) is conditionally approved contingent upon the following stipulations:

- Clean water re-direction to existing storm water outfalls shall be implemented as noted in the Preferred Alternative.
- City Code Section 1145.84 – Stormwater and Surface Drainage must be amended to allow, as an exception, discharge of contaminated Stormwater runoff into the sanitary sewer system with the Department of Public Utilities Director or their designee.
- Storm CC-Plans and Stormwater Management Report to be submitted and approved by the City

The Variance Committee noted that provisions within the city Code Section 1145.84-Stormwater and Surface Drainage related to discharge of surface runoff into the sanitary sewer system are currently under review. The committee will provide an update to the variance request, along with any restrictions, once the changes have been codified.

No approval contained herein relieves or absolves the applicant of any provisions of applicable state or federal laws. Please contact Private Development Section Manager Greg Fedner, P.E. at 614-645-8072 with any questions.

Sincerely,



John G. Newsome, P.E., Administrator
Division of Sewerage and Drainage

pc: Variance Review Committee
File