



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

January 30, 2023

Meridian Hill Composting, Inc.
Attn: John Rodgers
Waterway Place Suite 110
The Woodlands, TX 77380-3488

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **21541** (Corps No. **NWS-2022-0179**), Meridian Hill
Compost Facility, Lewis County, Washington

Dear John Rodgers:

On March 3, 2022, Meridian Hill Compost, Inc. submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Meridian Hill Compost Facility, Lewis County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Lori White at (564) 669-1396. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: John.Rodgers@WasteConnections.com

WQC Order No. 21541, Corps No. NWS-2022-0179

Aquatics ID No. 141511

January 30, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Enclosure

E-cc: Evan Carnes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Hugh Mortensen, The Watershed Company
Loree' Randall, Ecology
Lori Kingsbury, Ecology
Lori White, Ecology
Zach Meyer, Ecology
ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov



IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A WATER)
QUALITY CERTIFICATION TO)
Meridian Hill Composting, Inc.)
Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA)
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260)
and Chapter 173-201A WAC)

WQC Order No. 21541
Corps Reference No. NWS-2022-0179
Meridian Hill Compost Facility, unnamed
ditches and wetlands, located in Lewis County,
Washington.

Meridian Hill Composting, Inc
Attn: John Rodgers
Waterway Place Suite 110
The Woodlands, TX 77380-3488

On March 3, 2022, Meridian Hill Compost, Inc. submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Meridian Hill Compost Facility, Lewis County, Washington. The following processing dates are referenced below:>

- On August 18, 2022, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent a permit notification to Ecology that indicated that they are processing the project under Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 39.
- On October 6, 2022, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.

The project proposes to construct two compost buildings, with a receiving and conditioning area incorporated into the first compost structure. The size of the first compost structure will be approximately 70,000 square feet (sf). The second compost structure will be approximately 55,000 sf. The proposed office building will be approximately 2,000 sf. The shop to remain and be remodeled is 8,000 sf. A series of ditches and ponds surround the project site, along with three wetland complexes. Three additional wetlands exist within the interior of the project site.

The project as proposed will create direct and indirect wetland impacts (47,622 and 17,885 sf, respectively). Direct and indirect wetland impacts will be mitigated for by the purchase of 0.82 mitigation bank credits. Approximately 97,716 sf of wetland buffer will be enhanced onsite to protect the functions and values of the remaining wetlands.

The project site is located at on Big Hanaford Road in Centralia and is surrounded by 6 wetlands and a series of ditches in Lewis County, Washington, ¼ Section NE, Section 31, Township 15 N., Range 01W, within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 23, Upper Chehalis.

AUTHORITIES

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, and RCW 90.48.260, Ecology has reviewed this WQC request pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317.
2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. §1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.
4. Conformance with Washington's prohibition on discharges that cause or tend to cause pollution of waters of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48.080.
5. The Project Proponent of the project authorized is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, local or tribal authorities.

With this Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order), Ecology is granting with conditions Meridian Hill Composting, Inc's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Meridian Hill Compost Facility at Lewis County, unnamed wetland and ditches located in Lewis County. Ecology has determined that the proposed discharges will comply with all applicable state water quality and other appropriate requirements of State law, provided the project is conducted in accordance with the WQC request that Ecology received on March 3, 2022, the supporting documents referenced in Table 1 below, **and the conditions of this WQC Order.**

Table 1. Supporting Documents

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
3/3/2022	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form	JARPA (3/2/2022)	Heather Rogers, The Watershed Company, Ecologist
3/2/2022 and 1/6/2023	Drawings	Meridian Hill Compost Facility in Lewis County, Mitigation Bank Use Plan (drawings dated 5/3/2022 and 1/4/2023)	The Watershed Company

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
9/30/2022	State Environmental Policy Act	Lewis County State Environmental Policy Act, Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (9/6/2022)	Lewis County
3/2/2022	No Effect Letter	Meridian Hill Compost Facility in Lewis County, No Effect Letter (3/1/2022)	Greg Johnston, CFP, The Watershed Company Senior Fisheries Biologist
3/2/2022	Wetland Delineation	Meridian Hill Compost Facility in Lewis County, Wetland Delineation Report (12/3/2022)	Heather Rogers, The Watershed Company Ecologist
3/2/2022	Wetland Rating	Meridian Hill Compost Facility in Lewis County, Wetland Delineation Report (12/3/2022)	Heather Rogers, The Watershed Company Ecologist
6/28/2022 and 1/6/2023	Mitigation Plan	Mitigation Bank Use Plan Meridian Hill Compost Facility Lewis County (May 2022) and revised plan (10/20/2022 and 1/6/2023)	Ryan Kahlo, PWS, The Watershed Company Senior Ecologist
10/10/2022	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Meridian Hill Compost Facility (August 2022)	Kathy Hargrave, P.E., Sitts & Hill Engineers, Inc.
10/10/2022	Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	TESC (11/10/2021; revised 8/10/2022)	Kathy Hargrave, P.E., Sitts & Hill Engineers, Inc.

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize Meridian Hill Composting, Inc to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC) or other appropriate requirements of State law. Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401

Water Quality Certification absolves the Meridian Hill Composting, Inc from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

Water Quality Certification Conditions

The following conditions will be incorporated into the Corps permit and strictly adhered to by Meridian Hill Composting, Inc. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below each condition in *italic text*.

A. General Conditions

1. In this WQC Order, the term “Project Proponent” shall mean Meridian Hill Composting, Inc and its agents, assignees, and contractors.
 - *Justification - Ecology needs to identify that conditions of this WQC Order apply to anyone conducting work on behalf of the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.*
 - *Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(j), Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
2. All submittals required by this WQC Order shall be sent to Ecology’s Headquarters Office, Attn: Federal Permit Manager, via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Lori.White@ecy.wa.gov. The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 21541 and include the Project Proponent’s name, Corps permit number, project name, project contact, and the contact phone number.
 - *Justification - Ecology needs to identify where information and submittals are to be submitted to be in compliance with the requirements of this WQC Order.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
3. Work authorized by this WQC Order is limited to the work described in the WQC request package received by Ecology on March 3, 2022, and the supporting documentation identified in Table 1.
 - *Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the*

project is conducted as it was presented during the review process. Any deviations from information within the WQC Request package and this WQC Order must be disclosed prior to the initiation of the planned work and may require a new WQC request.

- *Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
4. The Project Proponent shall keep copies of this WQC Order on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
- *Justification - All parties (including on-site contractors) must be aware of and comply with the WQC Order for the protection of water quality.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
5. The Project Proponent shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or necessary data collection, to ensure that conditions of this WQC Order are being met.
- *Justification - Ecology must be able to investigate and inspect construction sites and facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.090, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
6. The Project Proponent shall ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand relevant conditions of this WQC Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this WQC Order. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) before construction begins.
- *Justification - Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, on behalf of the Project Proponent, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*

7. This WQC Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this WQC Order.
 - *Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters, and to protect designated uses. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a water quality certification, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact state water quality and will comply with the state's water quality requirements. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process, and as conditioned herein.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300(2)(e)(i), WAC 173-201A-310, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
8. Failure of any person or entity to comply with the WQC Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the state's water quality standards and the conditions of this WQC Order.
 - *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Civil penalties and other enforcement actions are the primary means of securing compliance with water quality requirements.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.037, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.140, RCW 90.48.142, RCW 90.48.144, and WAC 173-225-010.*
9. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology documentation for review before undertaking any major changes to the proposed project that could significantly and adversely affect water quality, other than those project changes required by this WQC Order.
 - *Justification- Ecology has independent authority to enforce our 401 certification conditions issued through this WQC Order pursuant to RCW 90.48, and has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. In order to ensure the project will comply with water quality standards in the event of any major changes, Ecology must be able to review the scope of work involved in the construction and operation of the project, otherwise all work must stop and a new 401 certification pre-filing meeting, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.*

- *Citation- 40 CFR 121.1(k) and (n), 40 CFR 121.3, 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, and Chapter 173-201 WAC.*

10. The Project Proponent shall send (per A.2.) a copy of the final Federal permit to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager within two weeks of receiving it.

- *Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that all the conditions of the WQC Order have been incorporated into the federal permit.*
- *Citation- 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW*

11. This WQC Order will automatically transfer to a new owner or operator if:

- a. A Request for Transfer of Order form is completed between the Project Proponent and new owner or operator with the specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submitted to Ecology per condition A.2. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
 - b. A copy of this WQC Order is provided to the new owner or operator; and
 - c. Ecology does not notify the new Project Proponent that a new WQC Order is required to complete the transfer.
- *Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.*
 - *Citation –40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*

B. Notification Requirements

1. The following notifications shall be made via phone or e-mail (e-mail is preferred) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Lori.White@ecy.wa.gov. Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 21541 Corps Reference No. NWS-2022-0179, and include the Project Proponent name, project name, project location, project contact and the phone number.

- a. Immediately following a violation of state water quality standards or when the project is out of compliance with any conditions of this WQC Order;
 - b. At least ten (10) days prior to all pre-construction meetings;
 - c. At least ten (10) days prior to conducting work activities in water or wetlands; and
 - d. Within seven (7) days of completion of each work activities in water or wetlands.
 - *Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
2. In addition to the phone or e-mail notification required under B.1.a. above, the Project Proponent shall submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.
- *Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*
3. If the project construction is not completed within 13 months of issuance of this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall submit per Condition A2 a written construction status report and submit status reports every 12 months until construction and mitigation are completed.
- *Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*

C. Timing

1. This WQC Order is effective upon issuance of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) NWP permit for this project and will remain valid until the Project Proponent meets all its requirements and conditions.
 - *Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.*
 - *Citation –Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.*

D. Water Quality Monitoring and Criteria

1. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable water quality standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC, except as authorized by this WQC Order.
 - *Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
2. This WQC Order does not authorize any in-water work during times there is flowing water.
 - *Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

E. Construction

General Conditions

1. All work in and near waters of the state shall be conducted to minimize turbidity, erosion, and other water quality impacts. Construction stormwater, sediment, and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) suitable to prevent exceedances of state water quality standards shall be in place before starting maintenance and shall be maintained throughout the duration of the activity.
 - *Justification - Disturbed areas without appropriate BMPs and construction methods can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.48.030 RCW, Chapter 90.48.080 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
2. All clearing limits, stockpiles, staging areas, and trees to be preserved shall clearly be marked prior to commencing construction activities and maintained until all work is completed for each project.
 - *Justification -Ensures that the project proponent preserves sensitive areas from discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
3. No stockpiling or staging of materials shall occur at or below the OHWM of any waterbody.
 - *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
4. The Project Proponent shall obtain and comply with the conditions of the Construction Stormwater General Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System - NPDES) issued for this project.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
5. Within the project limits¹ all environmentally sensitive areas that are not proposed for impact in the provided plan set, including, but not limited to, wetlands, wetland buffers, shoreline riparian buffers and mitigation areas shall be fenced with high visibility construction fencing (HVF), prior to commencing construction activities. Construction activities include equipment staging, materials storage, and work vehicle parking. Note: This condition does not apply to activities such as pre-construction surveying and installing HVF and construction zone signage.
- a. If the project will be constructed in stages² a detailed description and drawings of the stages shall be sent to Ecology for review at least 20 days prior to placing HVF.
 - b. Condition 5.a. shall apply to each stage.
 - c. All field staff shall be trained to recognize HVF, understand its purpose and properly install it in the appropriate locations.
 - d. HVF shall be maintained until all work is completed for each project or each stage of a staged project.
- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
6. No petroleum products, fresh concrete, lime or concrete, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious materials shall be allowed to enter waters of the state.

¹ Project limits include mitigation sites, staging areas, borrow sources, and other sites developed or used to support project construction.

² A stage is part of a project that has been separated into at least two distinct areas to be built during separate timeframes.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation -Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
7. All construction debris, excess sediment, and other solid waste material shall be properly managed and disposed of in an upland disposal site approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.
- *Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of material to protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation- Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
8. All equipment being used below the ordinary high-water mark shall utilize biodegradable hydraulic fluid.
- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
9. Applicant shall ensure that fill (soil, gravel, or other material) placed for the proposed project does not contain toxic materials in toxic amounts.
- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300-330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*
10. Work within waters of the state shall be conducted in the dry or during periods of low flow to the extent practicable.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300-330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

Equipment and Maintenance

11. Staging areas will be located a minimum of 50 feet and, where practical, 200 feet, from waters of the state, including wetlands, unless otherwise requested by the project proponent and authorized by Ecology.

- *Justification - Requiring a minimum setback ensures that material will not end up in waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

12. Equipment used for this project shall be free of external petroleum-based products while used around the waters of the state, including wetlands. Accumulation of soils or debris shall be removed from the drive mechanisms (wheels, tires, tracks, etc.) and the undercarriage of equipment prior to its use around waters of the state, including wetlands.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

13. No equipment shall enter, operate, be stored or parked within any sensitive area except as specifically provided for in this WQC Order.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*

- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

14. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-200, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

15. Wash water containing oils, grease, or other hazardous materials resulting from washing of equipment or working areas shall not be discharged into state waters. The Project Proponent shall set up a designated area for washing down equipment.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

16. A separate area shall be set aside, which does not have any possibility of draining to surface waters, for the wash-out of concrete delivery trucks, pumping equipment, and tools.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

17. Concrete process water shall not enter waters of the state. Any concrete process/contact water discharged from a confined area with curing concrete shall be routed to upland areas to be treated and disposed of appropriately with no possible entry to state waters.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

18. All excavated sediment shall be disposed upland in an approved disposal site, unless otherwise authorized by this WQC Order.

- *Justification - - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of sediment to protect water quality and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

Ground Improvements

19. Ground improvement activities shall not cause exceedance of water quality standards.

- *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.*

F. Wetland Mitigation Conditions

1. The Project Proponent shall mitigate wetland impacts as described in Mitigation Bank Use Plan for Meridian Hill Composting Facility (hereafter called the "Mitigation Plan") as identified in Table 1 or as required by this Order.

- *Justification - Alteration of water quality necessitates the use of mitigation as a method of controlling pollution. When adequate mitigation is provided, the impacts are not considered significant enough to water quality, at least in the long-term. The water quality standards, along with mitigation, protect wetlands as well as permitting some level of degradation where unavoidable or necessary.*

- *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*
2. The Project Proponent shall submit any proposed changes to the Mitigation Plan in writing to Ecology (see A.2) for review, as described in Section 9 (Statement of Coordination) in the Mitigation Plan, before implementing the changes.
- *Justification –When adequate mitigation is provided, the water quality impacts are offset and not considered significant, at least in the long-term. Changes to impacts or mitigation must be considered when evaluating mitigation adequacy.*
 - *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*
3. If the mitigation (purchase of bank credits or onsite critical area buffers) is not completed within 13 months of the date of this Order, the Project Proponent shall inform Ecology, in writing, of the status of:
- a. Meridian Hill Compost Facility
 - b. When mitigation will be completed
- With the:
- c. Reason for the delay
 - d. Expected date of completion

The Project Proponent shall submit an updated written notification every 12 months thereafter until Meridian Hill Compost Facility is complete and the required credits are purchased.

- *Justification - Mitigation that is not emplaced concurrent with impacts will result in degradation of existing beneficial uses of the wetlands affected by the proposed action through temporal loss of functions.*
- *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*

4. The Project Proponent's obligation to compensate for wetland impacts under F.1 is not met until the Project Proponent has received written notice from Ecology that the obligation is met.
 - *Justification - If the mitigation site is not meeting all compensatory mitigation conditions, then the water quality impacts will not be offset by the mitigation.*
 - *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*

Mitigation bank credits

5. Prior to impacting wetlands, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology documentation from the bank sponsor verifying the purchase of 0.82 wetland mitigation bank credits (credits) from the Chehalis Basin Mitigation Bank, Hanaford Valley Site. This documentation must include the Ecology Order Number, Order issuance date, impact acreage, the amount of credits required by the Order, and date of credit purchase.
 - *Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure the compensatory mitigation was actually provided by the bank.*
 - *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*
6. Unless otherwise authorized by this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall complete the purchase of credits before impacting wetlands. Otherwise, Ecology may require the Project Proponent to provide additional compensation to account for additional temporal loss of wetland functions.
 - *Justification - Mitigation that is not emplaced concurrent with impacts will result in degradation of existing beneficial uses of the wetlands affected by the proposed action through temporal loss of functions.*
 - *Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300 and WAC 173-225-010.*

Onsite critical area buffers

7. Unless otherwise authorized by this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall begin the onsite mitigation before, or concurrently with, impacting wetlands. Otherwise, Ecology may require the Project Proponent to provide additional compensation to account for additional temporal loss of wetland functions.
 - *Justification - Mitigation that is not emplaced concurrent with impacts will result in degradation of existing beneficial uses of the wetlands affected by the proposed action.*
 - *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300, and WAC 173-225-010.*
8. After completing planting of the critical area buffers, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology (see A.2) the as-built plan described on Sheet 7 of 7 of the Mitigation Plan.
 - *Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure the mitigation site was constructed and planted per the approved mitigation plan and serves as a baseline for monitoring performance standards, which must be met to ensure success of the mitigation site.*
 - *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300 and WAC 173-225-010.*
9. The Applicant shall install a split-rail fence, or other wildlife-friendly barrier approved by Ecology, along the outer boundary of wetland buffers directly adjacent to developed areas and roads to limit intrusion, encroachment, and other impacts.
 - *Justification - This requirement provides assurance that the mitigation site has the best chance at being successful in achieving wetland conditions.*
 - *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), and WAC 173-201A-300.*
10. Signs to mark the area as a mitigation site shall be placed on the fence posts at 100-foot intervals.
 - *Justification - This requirement provides assurance that the mitigation site has the best chance at being successful in achieving wetland conditions.*

- *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), and WAC 173-201A-300.*

11. The Project Proponent shall follow the steps below to record a restrictive covenant for the Meridian Hill Compost Facility:

- a. Request a restrictive covenant template from Ecology or use an appropriate alternative to develop a draft restrictive covenant.
 - b. Send the draft restrictive covenant to Ecology for review and approval prior to recording.
 - c. Record the restrictive covenant with the County Recording Office, Registrar of Deeds, or other official responsible for maintaining records for, or interest in, real property.
 - d. Record the restrictive covenant with a figure that corresponds with the legal description showing the area that is being protected, a copy of this Order, and a site map showing the location of wetlands and their buffers that are being protected.
 - e. Send a copy of the recorded restrictive covenant to Ecology with the As-Built Report (see G.20).
- *Justification - The mitigation plan needs to ensure that measures will be taken to protect the site for the long term to ensure that wetland functions and values are replaced, thereby preserving beneficial uses and offsetting pollution.*
 - *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300 and WAC 173-225-010.*

12. The Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology (see A.2) monitoring reports documenting mitigation site conditions annually for five years and as described on Sheet 7 of 7 of the Mitigation Plan.

- *Justification - A monitoring plan describes the methods used to collect and analyze data needed to show that performance standards are being met. Monitoring plans are necessary to track environmental changes at mitigation sites to ensure success of the mitigation site.*
- *Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300 and WAC 173-225-010.*

G. Emergency/Contingency Measures

1. The Project Proponent shall develop and implement a spill prevention and containment plan for all aspects of this project.
 - *Justification - Ecology must ensure that the Project Proponent has a plan to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 90.56.280 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.*
2. The Project Proponent shall have adequate and appropriate spill response and cleanup materials available on site to respond to any release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.
 - *Justification - Ecology must have assurance that the Project Proponent has the material readily available in WQC Order to address any spills that might occur to protect waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.*
3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
 - *Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
 - *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.*
4. Work causing distressed or dying fish and discharges of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions,

or discharges occur, the Project Proponent shall notify Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A2, and immediately take the following actions:

- a. Cease operations at the location of the non-compliance.
- b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and prevent further environmental damage.
- c. In the event of a discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, containment and cleanup efforts shall begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible, taking precedence over normal work. Cleanup shall include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup materials.
- d. Immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems.
- e. Immediately notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, for actual spills to water only.

- *Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*
- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.*

5. Notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office immediately if chemical containers (e.g., drums) are discovered on-site or any conditions present indicating disposal or burial of chemicals on-site that may impact surface water or ground water.

- *Justification - Oil and hazardous materials spills cause environmental damage. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.*

- *Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.*

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2). More information is available at www.eluho.wa.gov/content/11.

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing options below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of Ecology, in paper form, by mail or in person (see addresses below). E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Filing an appeal with the PCHB:

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit:
<https://eluho.wa.gov/content/11>

Filing by mail

Mailing Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board
PO Box 40903
Olympia, WA 98504-0903

Filing in person (or by certified mail/courier)

Street Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board
1111 Israel RD SW, STE 301
Tumwater, WA 98501

Filing electronically

E-mail Address:

Pchb-shbappeals@eluho.wa.gov

Serving a copy of the appeal on Ecology:

Electronic copies of appeals are not accepted at the Department of Ecology per WAC 371-08-305(10)

Filing by mail

Mailing Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

Filing in person (or by certified mail/courier)

Street Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Lori White
Department of Ecology
564-669-1396
Lori.White@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<http://www.eluho.wa.gov/content/11>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice and Procedure**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>
- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>

- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

Signature

Dated this 30th day of January 2023 at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington



Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Company