

**Update on Silver Springs Organics  
July 28, 2011  
From Thurston County Public Health & Social Services**

On July 27<sup>th</sup> representatives from the Department of Ecology (DOE), Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA), PHSS Environmental Health staff, and Silver Springs Organics (SSO) management met at the compost facility to discuss the removal of sludge from the on-site leachate collection pond. SSO management requested the meeting so that all appropriate regulatory agencies could be advised and contribute input as to the best timing and options for performing this project. SSO desires to proceed very soon so that they can have the compost pad cleaned and ready for winter; they do not plan to accept compost this winter (2011-12). SSO is preparing their site for the construction of a \$2 million covered structure to be constructed during the winter months if they receive all necessary approvals from Thurston County.

SSO has contracted with a vactor company (think large vacuum trucks) to vacuum the sludge and water slurry from the pond. This process is anticipated to take about three days. The slurry is to be transported in the vactor trucks to the lower fields at Silver Springs Ranch and land applied. The greatest issue with this project is that the sludge has been under water for some time and has become anaerobic; there will be odors associated with the removal of the sludge. Namely, there will likely be hydrogen sulfide odors (rotten egg smell) coming from the operation. Once the sludge is spread on the field it is planned to have some water applied to lessen odors. The odor will most likely linger for a couple of days as the volatile malodorous organic compounds off gas. This is similar to farmers applying cow or chicken manure to their fields.

Chuck Matthews with DOE is checking to see if there is an alternative land application site out of county that may be able to handle this material; he does not know if that will be a possibility at this time. SSO management stated that they intend to start the project this Monday (August 1<sup>st</sup>) at 7:30 am. Their contractor intends to have several trucks and crew members at the site to expedite the cleaning of the pond. SSO is also going to hand out flyers to the local neighborhood residents explaining what is being done at the facility and cautioning about the occurrence of odors.

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