

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Regional Director, Region 8

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June 23, 2023

Holly Chase, Town of Thurston Councilmember
4097 County Route 24
Cameron Mills, NY 14820-9731

Dear Councilmember Chase:

Governor Hochul has asked me to respond to your e-mail regarding the applications of Leo Dickson & Sons, Inc. (Dickson) to modify their solid waste management permit to add South Shore Water Reclamation Facility as an acceptable source of biosolids for land application and to transfer that permit to Casella Organics.

DEC subjects permit applications to all applicable federal and State standards to ensure the agency's decisions are protective of public health and the environment.

At this time, Leo Dickson & Sons, Inc. is the permittee, and their permit is active. Dickson's requests to modify the facility's permit remain under review by DEC.

To provide clarification, Dickson's pending modifications do not involve any physical expansion of operations or an increase in the amount of biosolids or other waste the facility can currently accept, store, or land apply. The DEC regulations that address solid waste management facility permit modifications include 6 NYCRR Part 360.16(f) and 6 NYCRR Part 621, available here:

- (Part 360.16 [f]) [View Document - New York Codes, Rules and Regulations \(westlaw.com\)](#)
- (Part 621) [Browse - New York Codes, Rules and Regulations \(westlaw.com\)](#)

You may also be interested to know that DEC is developing new Statewide guidance for biosolids recycling – including land application - in New York.

New York is a national leader in responding to the threats posed by emerging contaminants like PFAS and DEC continues to advance efforts to regulate these contaminants. As the science behind PFAS exposure pathways continues to evolve, DEC recognizes the potential for PFAS to re-enter the environment and negatively impact natural resources and public health in the event of the land spreading of biosolids containing excessive levels of PFAS.

DEC formally proposed a draft policy (DMM-7) last month and is accepting public comments until July 10, 2023. The draft [DMM-7](#) establishes interim PFOS and PFOA criteria for biosolids that are recycled in New York State and actions that DEC will take based on those results. [Learn more about DMM7 and view the draft program policy.](#)

Leo Dickson & Sons, Inc., or Casella Organics if the permit is transferred, will be subject to and required to comply with DMM-7 once finalized. DEC will continue to work with the community to address concerns and provide comprehensive oversight of the facility's operations to ensure compliance with all State environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Public engagement is important to our processes. I appreciate you reaching out on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy P. Walsh, MPA, P.E.
Regional Director, Region 8