

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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# Compost Rule Model Template

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# SUMMARY

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- Public-private partnership
- Regulator, composter and consultants
- Feedstock-based, tiered structure
- Performance over prescription
- Living document

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# WHY?

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- Many states evaluating and updating their regulations
- Composters:
  - Outdated or absent definitions
  - Terms such as “solid waste” hinder permitting
  - Address limited number of feedstocks
- Regulators:
  - Stormwater/groundwater protection
  - Scale/Risk

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# USCC-Georgia EPD Partnership

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- Ensure Georgia's proposed rule changes are based in science and verify that similar rules have been effective
- Share information and research
- Simplify and expedite the rule revision process
- Process: Fanning Institute contracted for
  - Surveys
  - In-depth interviews
- Develop a national model compost rule template

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# Fanning Institute Stakeholder Research Showed...

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The majority of stakeholders interviewed supported:

- Tiered approach
- Different requirements for in-vessel operations
- Exemptions
- More stringent requirements for facilities handling biosolids
- Case-by-case analysis for groundwater monitoring based on number of criteria
- Groundwater monitoring decreasing over time once history of compliance has been established
- Not establishing a set time limit on storage of finished product
- Using USCC protocols for testing

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# USCC Model Compost Rule Development

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- Project officially kicked off in February 2012
- Task Force members
  - State regulatory agency personnel, private operators, consultants
  - Represent different regions (including climatic and geological), technologies, feedstocks and regulatory structure
- Task Force members provide feedback during monthly webinars and document mark-ups
  - Find right balance (performance vs. prescriptive)
  - Iterative process
- Draft disseminated to core team for final review 12/5/12
  - Passed by USCC Board on January 27, 2013

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# Next Steps Include ...

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- Managed by Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee of USCC
- Outreach to USCC members and regulators for feedback
  - Periodic review and update of Template
- Collection and/or development of best management practices for performance-based provisions