



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Duneland 28

www.idem.IN.gov

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

100 North Senate Avenue, Mail Code 50-01, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 232-8603

Toll Free: (800) 451-6027

Facility Description:

- Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility is a registered composting and clean fill facility located at 550 West 300 North, in Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana. The facility is allowed to compost vegetative matter (grass, leaves, and natural growth wood) and can accept uncontaminated rocks, bricks, concrete, road demolition waste materials, and dirt for fill material. Duneland 28 is not allowed to accept municipal solid waste (garbage), trash, or industrial wastes.
- Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility is responsible for screening incoming clean fill material to ensure it does not contain garbage, trash, or any other unauthorized material.
- Compost facilities are allowed to accept vegetative matter, such as leaves, wood, brush, trimmings, and yard waste. They are not allowed to dispose of municipal solid waste (garbage), contaminated soils, or construction and demolition materials that do not meet the exclusions in the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) at 329 IAC 10-3-1.
- The statute that authorizes the registration of composting facilities for vegetative matter requires the facility to control dust, odor, and noise.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while allowing safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- Facilities operating in Indiana must comply with all state and federal environmental rules and regulations. IDEM staff work appropriately to enforce the state and federal environmental laws and rules that fall under IDEM's jurisdiction.
- IDEM regulates compost facilities through a registration process that establishes minimum criteria for protecting surface and ground water from contamination at the facility location. IDEM inspects composting operations to ensure they are not receiving unauthorized waste for processing or final disposal.
- IDEM issued a compost facility registration to Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility on August 8, 2010, for its composting activities, in accordance with state statute found in the Indiana Code (IC) under IC 13-20-10. Compost facilities are not required to have a public hearing during their permitting process. Compost facility registrations must be renewed every five years. IDEM conducts inspections at regulated facilities and investigates environmental complaints.

Citizen's Role:

- IDEM encourages citizens to remain informed about business activities in their neighborhoods. Concerns and questions should be directed to the appropriate company representatives or local zoning boards. Businesses are encouraged to work with neighbors to alleviate concerns or complaints.
- IDEM compliance and inspection staff will take swift action to resolve problems where business activities are posing a threat to human health or the environment. IDEM's approval of an operation does not override the need for compliance with any local zoning or land use ordinances.
- Citizens can learn about IDEM's regulatory programs by visiting the agency's website at www.idem.IN.gov.



- Citizens can report pollution complaints by contacting IDEM's Complaint Coordinator at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-4464. Businesses and citizens should report environmental emergencies, such as spills, to IDEM's 24-hour toll free spill line at (888) 233-7745.

Recent Activities:

- IDEM has received multiple complaints about Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility. Residents living near the site of the facility have complained about odors from the facility impacting nearby schools and athletic grounds. Additional complaints have included suspicions that the facility accepts waste that would require an operating permit and concerns about potential water contamination.
- IDEM inspected Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility on September 12, 2011. Staff did not observe violations during the inspection.
- IDEM inspected the facility again on October 19, 2011, and identified several issues with how the vegetative matter was being managed. This was likely the source of odor.
- Additional complaints from residents and from Union Township School workers prompted IDEM to investigate further. IDEM's Northwest Regional Office staff met with the facility owner to review the facility's operation plan.
- IDEM sent a letter on November 3, 2011, indicating that the facility needed to address odors and required them to provide a response about the steps they will be taking to resolve concerns.
- IDEM received a letter on November 11, 2011, from a facility consultant that specializes in composting operations. The consultant identified the issues causing the odors as too much grass in the mixture without enough leaves and wood waste to balance out the decomposition process.
- The facility has ceased taking large loads of grass. Any small amount of grass received will be immediately mixed with leaves and woody material. The existing piles of grass are being covered with leaves and ground-up wood material to prevent odors until the grass has completely decomposed.
- IDEM took water samples at a residential house near the Duneland 28 facility on December 1, 2011. The samples are being tested in the lab and results are expected in early 2012. IDEM planned to take water samples at the Union Township Schools, but the winterization of school wells postponed the sampling until spring 2012.
- IDEM inspectors visited Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility on December 8, 2011, to respond to complaints about dead animal disposal. No evidence of animal carcasses was found. The IDEM inspector did not observe any major odors from the facility.

Additional Information:

- For complaints, concerns, and other communication with Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility, please contact Kelly Travis (219) 299-9987 or duneland28@hughes.net.
- For additional information regarding Duneland 28 Clean Fill Facility's registration, please visit IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet at www.idem.IN.gov/6551.htm and search for Document Number 63908733.
- Citizens may direct questions about the status of IDEM's investigation into residents' complaints to IDEM's Northwest Regional Office staff at (219) 757-0265 or (888) 209-8892 (toll free in Indiana).
- Local zoning questions should be directed to the Porter County Plan Commission at (219) 465-3540 or plancomm@porterco.org.
- Media inquiries should be directed to Rob Elstro, IDEM public information officer, at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8499, or relstro@idem.IN.gov.