

PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

To all interested government agencies, public groups, and individuals:

In accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR parts 1500 – 1508) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for implementing NEPA (40 CFR part 6), EPA has completed an environmental review of the following proposed action:

Juneau Compost Facility

In the environmental assessment (EA), EPA evaluated the issuance of a grant award to the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), Alaska, for the construction of a municipal compost facility. The Juneau Compost Facility will be located at the site of the former Lemon Creek Gravel Pit at 2300 Anka Street. The site is a mined-out gravel pit that is currently being used for recycled asphalt pavement and snow storage. The site will be converted for use as a Zero Waste Subdivision (ZWS) for the community of Juneau, which could include other aspects of Juneau's waste diversion and recovery, such as a recycling center, a transfer station, household hazardous waste center, a reuse center, and potentially a repair and training area. At this time, the ZWS project will span over several years to complete and will be contingent on available funding. The Community Grant funds will be used to initiate the planning phases for the ZWS concurrently with the compost facility. The former gravel pit consists of approximately 25 acres. Around two to five acres will be used for the compost facility. The other acreage will eventually be used for other solid waste management purposes within the next one to ten years as part of the ZWS project.

The Juneau Compost Facility will provide increased capacity and capability for solid waste management. With Juneau's only landfill having a life of 20 years left, the community has limited choices for landfill expansion or the placement of a new landfill. The former gravel pit is currently owned by the CBJ and is zoned for industrial use. By constructing a composting facility within the footprint of the former gravel pit, the community will have an option to divert up to 22% of the annual waste stream to the landfill and convert the organic waste material into a usable finished compost. By keeping food waste and other organics out of the landfill, CBJ can significantly extend the life of the landfill.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) included \$2,500,000 earmarked for the CBJ for the municipal composting facility. EPA Region 10 will administer and manage this grant to the CBJ. The CBJ will be responsible for the contracts and all project components related to the municipal composting facility.

Based on the environmental impacts analysis in the EA, EPA determined that no significant environmental impacts are anticipated from the issuance of the grant and the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, making the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) unnecessary. Therefore, I am issuing this preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to document this determination.

Copies of the EA is available by request. An electronic copy of this document is available for download from EPA's NEPA Compliance Database at <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-11/public/action/nepa/search>.

Comments regarding this preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration to:

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After evaluating any comments received, EPA will make a final decision. The preliminary decision and finding will then become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new significant information is provided to alter this finding.

Tim Hamlin, Director
Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division
EPA Region 10

Date

Enclosure: EA for the Juneau Compost Facility