



MAX ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

# FACT SHEET

## Residual Waste Processing Facility Bulger, PA Facility

MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. (MAX) has submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) an application to operate a residual waste processing facility at its Bulger Plant. The permit would allow MAX to solidify residual waste from oil and gas drilling sites prior to using it at the Plant's impoundment. Like other residual wastes accepted at the facility, the material will be used as construction fill to help raise the surface grade of the site impoundment prior to permanent capping and closure. Currently, oil and gas drilling wastes must be solidified elsewhere prior to acceptance and use at the impoundment.



*Mud from oil and gas well drilling is expected to be the principal waste accepted at the facility.*

### **Facility Will Solidify Wastes Before Use at the Impoundment**

The purpose of the residual waste processing facility is to solidify waste materials, in other words, eliminate free liquids, so that the material is sufficiently dry and firm for use as construction fill. Processing the waste will involve mixing it with other non-hazardous soil-like wastes and materials.

### **Only Residual Wastes from Drilling will be Permitted**

The requested permit covers only residual wastes from oil and gas drilling operations. Such wastes might include drill cuttings (leftover dirt, rock, mud and lubricants that come out of the well hole) and sludges created from managing fluids like fracturing fluid and lubricants. No bulk liquids, such as bulk frac water, will be accepted.

### **Site Operations Will Comply with Existing DEP and Township Agreements**

Operation of the residual waste processing facility will adhere to existing agreements between the DEP, Smith Township and MAX with regard to waste acceptance hours, limits on truck traffic, and truck routes.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is Residual Waste?**

Non-hazardous waste generated by industrial, mining or agricultural activities. Wastes produced by the oil and gas industry are classified as residual wastes.

## **What is a Residual Waste Processing Facility?**

Any facility used to process residual waste. Processing could mean reducing the volume or bulk of the waste, changing it for reuse, or transferring, composting or recovering resources from the waste. In this case, the term is referring to an area at MAX where wastes can be mixed until they meet certain standards for placement over the impoundment areas.

## **What is Solidification/Stabilization?**

Processes used to treat wastes so that substances don't leak or leach from the material. The wastes may be treated physically or chemically or both. Here, the terms are used to describe the process of turning non-solid substances into solid substances by mixing them with drier absorbent materials.

## **What is an Impoundment?**

An impoundment is an earthen basin used for disposing of liquid and solid wastes. MAX has two former impoundments at Bulger, one that was closed in 1981 and one that was closed in 1987. They are being re-closed in accordance with present-day landfill regulations.

## **What does MAX do at the Bulger Plant?**

Current activities are focused on re-closing the site's disposal impoundments. This involves using approved solidified residual waste beneficially as construction fill to raise the surface grades of the impoundment areas. Once the grades are sufficiently high to promote surface water runoff, the areas are permanently capped and closed. The work is being done in accordance with state regulations and an agreement in place with Smith Township and the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

## **How would this permit change what MAX does at the Bulger Plant?**

The residual waste processing permit would allow MAX to mix the wastes in approved areas of the site before use. Without the permit, MAX can only accept pre-solidified wastes.

## **Is MAX planning to take frac fluid?**

All materials processed at MAX must be dry enough to help bring former impoundment surfaces up to grade; thus, liquids such as frac fluids will make up low percentages of the materials accepted. For example, while bulk frac liquid wouldn't be accepted, MAX might accept sludges created from cleaning out frac storage tanks.

## **How are the waste materials prevented from affecting groundwater?**

Controls are in place at the facility to prevent contamination of groundwater. Rainwater or snowmelt that comes into contact with the waste is sent to a wastewater facility, where it is treated and tested before it is discharged. The eventual permanent caps will prevent rainwater and snowmelt from reaching the waste; however, protective drainage and treatment systems will remain in place.

## **For More Information**

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