



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

May 3, 2021

Nicole Briand, Town Manager  
Town of Bowdoinham  
13 School Street  
Bowdoinham, Maine 04008

Re: Status of Bowdoinham Recycling Barn

Dear Nicole,

You have requested that I clarify the regulatory status of the Bowdoinham Recycling Barn, operated by David Berry, located on the Post Road. First, to the Department's knowledge, the Barn has operated as an exempt recycling facility under the Departments' rules. The facility has routinely accepted pre-separated, uncontaminated, used paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, and metal (including white goods) and limited its' handling of these wastes to sorting, compacting or baling, containerizing, and/or transferring, when these materials will be used by a manufacturer. This activity is does not require a permit from the Department. In addition, the Barn would be exempt from permitting for the temporary storage, for a maximum of 30 days, of wood waste (brush, stump, wood chips, lumber), construction or demolition debris, tires, white goods and household hazardous as part of an annual or semi-annual municipally-authorized collection program. Finally, the Barn could accept Universal Waste, which includes architectural paint, cathode ray tubes (including TVs and computer monitors), lamps, mercury devices, mercury thermostats, motor vehicle mercury switches and totally enclosed, non-leaking polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) ballast. However, the operation of a Universal Waste accumulation site must comply with the requirements for "central accumulation facilities" included in the Department's "Hazardous Waste Management Rules" (06-096 CMR ch. 850, 851, 853, 857 and 858). The operation of the resale/swap shop for clothing and other goods that are still in operating condition is also exempt, but it would require significant oversight to avoid an overaccumulation of items that cannot be reused and are, therefore, municipal solid waste.

Any other activities at the Barn associated with the receiving, storing, accumulating, and/or consolidating of solid waste and waste oil in sufficient volume to be able to containerize, with or without compaction, for efficient transportation to another facility, would require a permit from the Department to operate as a transfer station. My review of the setback requirements affirmatively demonstrates that the Barn cannot meet the setbacks from residences (500 feet), public roads (100 feet) and abutting property boundaries (100 feet for facilities not

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312 CANCO ROAD  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
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accepting municipal solid waste and 250 feet for facilities accepting municipal solid waste). There are additional permitting requirements, including traffic flow, noise, access control and setbacks to protected natural resources that would make permitting the Barn as a transfer station problematic.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 207-287-7704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Parker", written over a printed name.

Michael T. Parker