



Cathy Curtis <curtisc@link75.org>

Fwd: Question regarding glass

1 message

David and Alison Berry <alisonberry374@gmail.com>
To: Cathy Curtis <curtisc@link75.org>

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 8:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David and Alison Berry** <alisonberry374@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 12:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Question regarding glass
To: Jeremy Cluchey <jcluchey@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hamlin, Eric P** <Eric.P.Hamlin@maine.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 12:13 PM
Subject: Question regarding glass
To: alisonberry374@gmail.com <alisonberry374@gmail.com>
Cc: Parker, Michael T <Michael.T.Parker@maine.gov>, Espanol, Athena N <Athena.N.Espanol@maine.gov>

Hi, David,

This email is a follow up to our telephone conversation regarding the use of crushed, clean glass as fill. To recap the general context, you indicated that the Town of Bowdoinham was considering a move to sorted recycling (as opposed to single sort), but due to the low market value of glass you were asking about crushing for use as fill.

Crushed, clean glass is included in the Department's definition of inert fill, and therefore may be used as fill without the need for a Department solid waste license (such as a beneficial use license). I'll include that definition in its entirety here for reference:

(from 06-096 C.M.R. 400.) RRR. Inert fill. "Inert fill" means clean soil material, including soil from road ditching and sand from winter sand cleanup; rock; bricks; crushed clean glass or porcelain; aged, fully-hardened asphalt; and cured concrete; that are not mixed with other solid or liquid waste, and are not derived from an ore mining activity.

The key to the use of clean glass as fill is to ensure that contaminants such as metal or plastic caps, lids, and container contents are minimized to the extent possible; we do not expect removal of labels since this is really not practical. There is no required specification for crushing, but ideally the crushing process would be such that danger from sharp pieces would be minimized. In Aroostook County glass crushing for use as fill is common and I believe they try to crush to a 3/8" minus size but anything that decreases the cutting hazard would be acceptable. During the crushing process, noise, sharp pieces, and dust are the primary hazards, so some form of eye, ear, and respiratory protection for those near the crusher should be considered and applied as appropriate.

As with any fill, the final use may be subject to non-solid waste permitting. For example, expansion of a transfer station may require a license amendment, and filling near or in a water resource such as a stream or wetland may be subject to NRPA regulation. This is no different than filling with virgin materials such as soil, gravel, sand, etc.

Crushed glass can serve as a very useful fill or drainage layer material, so this can be a good way to divert significant tonnage from disposal to better purposes even though it is of limited cash value. Thanks for reaching out to discuss this. Please feel free to forward this email as you see fit, and to either contact me directly or direct questions to me.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Hamlin

Environmental Specialist

Division of Solid Materials Management

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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