



Department of Environmental Protection

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Unrecyclable Mixed Colored Broken Glass Beneficial use Determination

Bureau of Waste Prevention

Policy BWP-94-011

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Bureau of Waste Prevention

BACKGROUND

Glass collected through recycling consists of glass food or beverage containers. Often these containers are commingled during collection which requires sorting of colors by a material recovery facility (MRF) or other processing facility.

Depending on the collection characteristics, method of transportation, and sorting procedures, varying amounts of mixed color broken glass result. This mixed color glass is difficult to sort into its component colors.

Glass which has been sorted by color has the greatest value in the glass container markets. Mixed colored glass has minimal value in the glass industry, but has reuse value for non-manufacturing uses as described below.

POLICY

This beneficial use determination, issued by the Bureau of Waste Prevention, outlines the requirements for the beneficial use of uncontaminated mixed color processed glass aggregate (PGA) as a replacement for natural aggregate materials (gravel, crushed gravel, or crushed stone) and other specific uses outlined by the Department.

All PGA shall meet the following characteristics:

- Consist of clean mixed color cullet with a maximum residual content (i.e., food, paper, etc.) of five percent by volume. Glass products other than food or beverage containers (i.e., fluorescent lights, video screens, window panes, etc.) are precluded from this policy and shall not be incorporated into PGA; and
- Crushed and screened such that 100 percent of the material passes a 3/8 inch screen prior to use.

Pursuant to 310 CMR 19.060: Beneficial use of Solid Wastes, PGA will not be considered solid waste when used for the following applications:

- (a) when crushed to an appropriate size and used for subgrade construction applications;
- (b) when crushed to an appropriate size and used as aggregate in subsoil drainage systems;
- (c) when processed for use as a substitute for conventional aggregate in asphalt or concrete; or
- (d) when mixed with soil and used as daily cover in accordance with 310 CMR 19.130(15)(a) and (b). Use as daily cover as specified herein does not require any other written approval by the Department. Notification of intent to use PGA in daily cover material must be submitted to the appropriate regional office prior to use.

Any other uses of PGA will require a written determination of beneficial use by the Department. Beneficial use determinations granted by the Department before the effective date of this policy shall remain in effect, subject to all conditions contained therein, unless specifically addressed by subsequent Department action.

This beneficial use determination is limited to the determination that PGA used in accordance with this policy shall not be classified as a solid waste. The technical suitability and compliance with other local, state, or federal requirements when using PGA in the applications as described by (a), (b), and (c) must be determined by the user of PGA.

EVALUATION

The Division of Solid Waste Management will be responsible for tracking the implementation and effectiveness of this policy.