



Summary of Request for Information–December 2010 LAND APPLICATION OF SEPTAGE IN FLORIDA

The following is a summary of the responses received from our recent request for information sent to businesses in the onsite industry regarding land application of septage in Florida and the impact that the ban on land application would have on their business regarding cost and other factors.

Do you land apply?

17 businesses replied “Yes” and included the following comments regarding land application:

We have our own state approved & monitored site – 40 acres in Ocala, FL for the last 25 years.

I have a 40 acre lime stabilization site.

Yes, we do land apply and have done so since 1970.

We currently land apply on property we lease.

No other companies use our site.

20 replied “No” and included the following comments:

Not applicable to my current business.

No longer does any land spreading, as Southport has been closed almost 2 years.

We did until about 2008 and are in process of trying to approve a new site.

We do not pump tanks.

We do not land apply in this area.

Not allowed in Charlotte or Desoto Counties.

They have no property that they will allow us to land spread.

We do not pump-out.

Where would you dispose of septage if you could not land apply?

I guess a treatment facility; I would build a dewatering plant; We would be forced to dispose at the sewage treatment plant at Hookers Point; South to Flagler County, closest place is 50 miles, (100 miles round trip); There is no city or county facility that will take residential septage & grease traps; Zachary Company, 601 Co. Rd. 297-A, Cantonment, FL; I dump at county sewer plant in Wakulla County; I would have to dump at the local city sewer (GRU) to dispose of septage and would have nowhere to dump grease from grease trap pump outs; We use Select Processing of Orlando – 223 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando for Septage @ .105 per gallon & Affordable Bio Feed – 1745 S. John Young Pkwy, Kissimmee for Grease @ .12 per gallon; We are in Brooksville (Hernando County) and use and own our disposal site at a 60 acre tract (agricultural) zoned that we have owned since 1970. We would have to take septage to the county’s co-treatment plant which is located in the southern west end of the county. Minimum additional travel time one-way (1 hour); Some other factors which control pricing and disposal are: a) distance to disposal site(s), b) hours of operation of the facilities (the land spread is always open 24/7/365 – not so with City, County, or private facilities, particularly on weekends. c) fuel costs. Some of the County sites are 50+ miles one way from our base. The 4K pumper gets about 6mpg diesel, the Vaccon 5mpg and the 2K around 8. Our land spread is 18 miles from our shop. We currently charge \$225.00 for a 1,000 gallon septic tank cleaning including the disposal. Several competitors are still in the \$150.00 range. How they legally dispose is unknown, key word being "legally".; Port St. Joe sewer plant; We

dispose in the city of Lake City treatment plant; I operate a Residuals Management Facility.; If we could not land apply from our plant we would close the plant (probably) or we would see if we could make a deal with a municipality or private organization (potential). We basically have no other alternative; Our prevailing dumping fee @ Gulf County WWTP is \$65.00 per thousand for waste generated outside the county and \$40.00 per thousand for waste generated in Gulf County; Currently there is not a facility in St. Johns County that accepts the septic waste 0 the nearest location is in South Flagler County or North Duval County only; Lake City, Fl. Live Oak does not accept at this time; City of Port St. Joe for sewage, but there is no alternative for grease; We use the county treatment plant; Don't know. Port of Tampa use to during rainy season when sites couldn't be used; Not allowed to land apply in Charlotte County. We have no choice but to use Charlotte County Utilities; There's nowhere locally to take the septage; If we could not land apply we would have to shut down our pumping operation since at this time Polk County will not accept septage at their wastewater treatment plants. The majority of our business comes from pumping so it is safe to say that losing the pumping aspect of our business in the current economic situation would probably put us out of business. Polk County is currently looking into accepting septage with a possible implementation time of 2015 to 2016 but there are not any definite plans in place at this time.; In our county Ocala if you could not land apply we would have to go to another county because the city will not accept it an.

What increase in cost would it have on your company?

A lot \$1,200.00 per month not counting wear n tear on trucks having to go dump out of your way, fuel expense; \$200k - \$300k capital cost then less cost per gal; Tying up trucks and drivers in line to dispose, and charges of disposal would double or triple the cost of pumping a septic tank; Purchase of additional equipment, wear & tear of existing equipment. Additional insurance, taxes, fuel costs and repair costs, additional CDL licensed driver, technician time, hours on the job and overtime. Additional higher wages for CDL driver. Would increase cost of pump outs, to consumers, approximately \$250.00; About \$75-\$100 per pumping; N/A; N/A; I would lose all grease trap contracts (about \$4,000 a month in revenue) which is significant for me and it would cost about \$300 per truck load to dispose of septage at GRU. This disposal cost would be about 36% of pump out revenue for septage pump outs. To put this in perspective, if I dump at GRU seven times (about 2 days of work) the cost is equal to my land payment. Long story short, I would have a very hard time staying in business if I did not have a land application site; Not convenient or cost effective to drive from Kissimmee to Orlando to dump each truck load however necessary to stay in business; We would have to increase our prices for basic pumping services a minimum of \$70.00 per pump job just to cover dumping fee costs at the county's facility which is currently .07/gallon or \$70.00/1000 gallons. In addition to that basic (c.o.s.) it would be necessary for us to raise our overall prices \$25.00-\$35.00 to cover additional operating costs for travel time, fuel costs and general operational cost increases. Projected increase at least \$100.00 per pump minimum.; I have every single dump record for our business since I began as qualifier in 1998. We have owned, leased, and rented sites over the years and they are the most cost effective and environmentally friendly (from a carbon footprint standpoint as well) way to dispose of the materials. Obviously the nitrogen levels must be closely monitored and there are other considerations also but we have found this to be the best and cleanest way. The elimination of land spreads would cause a large increase in the cost to recover the spoil that would have to be passed on to the consumer in order to keep the doors open. This does not appear to be viable given the state of the economy. This is not a profitable end of the business for us rather the only way we can serve our constituents without giving up the plumbing work, drain fields, drain cleaning etc. they also provide us. After all, if we cannot serve their pumping needs they may decide to use a competitor for their plumbing also.; It already has a significant impact since it charges .40 plus cents per gallon that's disposal of. Then the cost of fuel to go out of the way 85% of the time to dispose of the waste.; No change. Currently, I charge my company \$.105 per gallon or \$105 per thousand gallons of truck capacity. Full loads only. For example a truck rated at 3600 gallons is charged \$378. Don't bring a partially loaded truck and expect a discount. Company that registers as a Hauler must provide: Copy of DOH registration, license, insurance, list of trucks with DOH certification as to liquid capacity and integrity.; If we closed the plant we would dispose at Select and pay their normal price; It would impose a 50-75% increase in costs – including possible purchase of new equipment including tractor-trailer and additional driver to transport waste – fuel – due to distance of 100 miles plus round trip to dispose of waste – additional requirements for hauling.; A great increase in driver time and fuel cost, not to mention a scheduling nightmare.; substantial; Additional disposal fees and/or travel time, fuel; What we pay to land spread for one month is now what we pay to take one (1) 2,000 gallon truck to Charlotte County Utilities, this

is an enormous cost; Increase in cost??? Probably put us out of business; I cannot afford to upgrade my system so i would have to pass the cost to the customer if dumping fees are raised; \$65 per 1,000 gal.

Please list and explain any other impacts that the ban on land application would have?

I don't see how you could make any money on pump outs if you couldn't land spread; this will get the cheaters out of our market and would add professionalism to our industry; The current economy could not handle any increase in pricing, therefore the land application ban would devastate our industry. The Board of County Commissioners in Hillsborough County tried to ban land application without the industry's input about fifteen years ago. At that time I came up with a plan to get the attention of the BOCC. That is when the Hillsborough County Onsite Septic Association parked their pump trucks around the County Center Building. When presented with the facts of impact on costs to the industry and therefore to the customer they had a change of heart. Rhonda Storm was our largest supporter. At that time she was on the BOCC. People on fixed income cannot pay \$300 - \$400 to pump out a septic tank. This will lead to more sanitary (nuisance) problems. I have people hang up or tell me they cannot afford \$200 now, so what do you suppose will happen when we have to quote \$300 - \$400 prices? Several companies in this area have already closed due to current state of the economy. We are struggling and a ban on land application would be the last nail in the coffin! Please do whatever you can to stop this from happening. If I can be of any further assistance please feel at liberty to contact me.; Loss of jobs, loss of investment to improved real estate, loss of income & loss of treatment plant; We pump most of the restaurants in Marion County (50% of our business). We mix 2 septic tanks to 1 grease trap. These prices would also increase proportionally. There are no facilities in Marion that treat grease trap waste.; Does not apply to our area; it may give the county sewer plants state wide the idea that they could increase dumping costs without good reasons other than the monopoly syndrome; In this struggling economy, the average homeowner and small business owner both are having to fight to keep their head above water. If the ban on land application were to actually go through I would have to increase my price on pump outs which would make for a hardship to my customers. There would also be no realistic way to dispose of grease at all. The impact of this ban would be overwhelming on many levels.; An increase in cost to the consumer of (\$100.00-\$150.00) per pump job (900 – 1050 gallon) service. Minimum cost would go from \$150.00 to at least \$250.00 - \$300.00 per pump job. It would drastically lower – reduce the value of our property in terms of the revenue we would lose from it not being a land spreading site that is approved and permitted by the Health Department for that specific purpose. Now it becomes just vacant, not revenue producing agricultural land, that cannot be developed.; Well grease traps cannot be disposed of in the treatment plant so that's one service we lost all together; I feel that all haulers need to take into account the true cost of disposal. Land and taxes are not free, tankage, lime, method of mixing, fencing, signage, labor, lime etc. all cost money and sometimes people don't include their double handling of material, engineering, sampling and application time as a cost. Often times the hauler is short changing himself by saying disposal is not a real cost. Having said that, I believe that the state's ban on land application for PROPERLY treated septage waste is onerous. What isn't being discussed is: Grease Trap wastewater and Portable Toilet waste. How do those ingredients get treated?; Unknown; Would lead to loss of jobs – including but not limited to Site Manager – Also, in past we have purchased land to use for disposal of waste, which now the property will lose value – the Additional costs would be considerable to all aspects of disposal for a small, locally owned and operated company to absorb.; Maintenance on grease traps would come to a standstill, because of an overload in grease water to the already undersized sewer plants. That then turns into fines that would be issued to the consumer and possibly septic companies, which would then in turn place a burden on the state to replace or upgrade their sewer treatment plants.; It will change the way the trucks are now washed out to remove sand and debris that accumulates in the bottom of the tank. At this time, there are no alternatives to this method here or in St. Joe. The cost to change to any other method is probably prohibitive in a county the size of Franklin. There is not enough volume in servicing this area to warrant the cost. Currently it is my understanding that Cape San Bias is going to central sewer so a decrease in sewage pump outs is going to occur. The other concern is restaurant grease, once a ban is inacted a reduction in disposal areas will force the cost to restaurants to go up in a time of recession.; Drive the price up consumers would have to pay will lose investment in treatment plant already working well with no environmental impact. Cost of land, equipment, etc. \$250,000.00 + down the drain; The ban on land spreading in Charlotte County has been very hard. We're working for pennies. We sometimes feel like we're only working to pay Charlotte County Utilities.; Impact? It would put a lot of pumpers out of business. We've been spreading for 45 years with no problems. My suggestion is to leave it alone.; You have a lot of people who have spent a lot of money on these plants and if you stop land application they will lose all that money. For example if a contractor borrowed 300,000.00 to build a plant and buy land to spread it on and the stop land spreading the contractor will lose that money; for me none.