

**Date:** Sept. 26, 2011

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item J, Informational item: Hermiston Foods  
Oct. 20-21, 2011, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** This item will provide the commission a status update of the proposed research activities regarding odor management at the Hermiston Foods wastewater land application site in Hermiston. The content of the item will be presented at the October 20-21 commission meeting and this report is an outline of the informational item.

**Why this is important** Despite multiple efforts to control odors from Hermiston Foods' wastewater land application, the company continues to receive complaints from neighbors who report instances of strong and objectionable odor. DEQ staff have observed strong odors during several of the twice-weekly site visits over the past three months.

NORPAC, the parent company of Hermiston Foods, and Oregon State University are collaborating on two research projects to address the issue of odor management. OSU's Agricultural Research Foundation will conduct the research and prepare reports on the following areas:

1. Best practices for odor management within the context of water reuse and application to agricultural sites.
2. Laboratory studies focused on determining the retention time for waters to transition from aerobic to anoxic and finally anaerobic conditions.

DEQ and the Oregon Department of Agriculture are each contributing a portion of funding for this research, and NORPAC is paying for the majority of the cost.

**Next steps and commission involvement** DEQ will provide a full status report on this matter at the Oct. 20-21, 2011, EQC meeting.

**Attachments** None

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