



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

TO: Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee County
Emergency Managers

FROM: Elizabeth M. Browne, Chief
Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection

DATE: December 30, 2013

SUBJECT: Approval for Emergency Disposal of Ice Storm Debris

The major ice storm that struck Michigan on December 21, 2013, left behind an extraordinary amount of debris in the following counties: Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee. Several of these counties or municipalities within them have declared states of emergency. Consistent with those declarations and our understanding of the extent of storm damage, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection (OWMRP), hereby grants approval for the emergency disposal of debris resulting from the ice storm and cleared from those counties.

Under R 299.4112 of the administrative rules promulgated under Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451), the DEQ may approve the emergency disposal of waste that poses a threat or substantial nuisance to the public or the environment. The approval must specify the type and quantity of the waste and the manner and location of its disposal. The maximum duration for an approval is 90 days.

The debris cleared from the counties includes tree trimmings and other yard clippings that are prohibited from disposal in a landfill under Section 11514(2)(d) of Act 451. With this approval, up to 10,000 tons of the tree trimmings and other yard clippings cleared from each county may be disposed in licensed Type II landfills through March 31, 2014. This approval does not limit other wastes authorized for disposal under the individual landfills' solid waste disposal area operating licenses, and the landfills are not required to accept the debris for disposal.

This approval for emergency disposal is intended to assist with the debris clearance activity by providing another option for managing the debris. We also encourage the counties to pursue options that would result in the use of the material (wood fuel, compost, etc.), to the extent practicable given the emergency situation. The OWMRP may extend this approval to other counties if additional information becomes available demonstrating a need.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Duane Roskoskey, Sustainable Materials Management Unit, Solid Waste Section, OWMRP, at 517-284-6593; roskoskeyd@michigan.gov; or DEQ, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741.

cc: Mr. Dan Batts, Michigan Waste Industries Association
Mr. Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. Lonnie Lee, DEQ
Mr. Steve Sliver, DEQ
Mr. Duane Roskoskey, DEQ

J. C. Lee, Acting