Dane County Manure Storage Closure Permit

DANE COUNTY
LAND&WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Under Chapter 49, Dane County Code of Ordinances, manure storage facilities that are no longer in use are required to be closed.



What is a Manure Storage Facility?

A manure storage facility is any structure used to contain:

- manure or materials mixed with manure such as bedding, soil, compost, feathers, or hair;
- manure by-products such as sand, separated solids, or sludge;
- process wastewater such as milkhouse waste, barnyard runoff, or feed leachate; and
- other agricultural wastes.

Examples include: stacking pads, liquid manure storage facilities, transfer systems, digesters, composting facilities, and runoff collection systems.

Why Close a Manure Storage Facility?

Manure storage facilities have a design life expectancy of approximately 20 years. Depending on when the facility was constructed and what design standards were followed, they can be used much longer. However, sometimes these facilities were not designed properly, may be leaking into the environment, have damages that are beyond repair, are a safety concern, or are no longer being used. In these cases, the manure storage facility are required to be closed properly following applicable technical standards.



OBTAINING A PERMIT

In order to properly close an existing manure storage facility, a closure permit through the Land & Water Resources Department is required prior to starting work. The complete permit application includes:

- Manure Storage Closure Permit Application
- Application fee (if applicable)
- Engineering and construction plans - certified by a professional engineer or engineering practitioner



The department has **45 working days** from receipt of a complete permit application to review and issue a decision.

Be aware that other permits may be required such as local building permits or construction site erosion control permits.

What does Closure Look Like?

Typically, when a manure storage facility is properly closed, there is little evidence on the surface of the ground that there was a facility there. The process includes removing liners, walls, concrete, pipes, etc. and filling the hole with soil. The area is then covered with top soil and seeded to a grass cover. In some cases, manure storage facilities can be converted to other uses, such as a clean water pond, depending on site conditions.

HIRING CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS

Hiring a professional engineer registered with the State of Wisconsin or working with an engineering practitioner certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) or US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help the permitting process go more smoothly.

A list of engineers, practitioners, and contractors who typically work in Dane County is available online in on our Service Provider Registry: **lwrd.danecounty.gov/serviceproviders**

Department Provided Assistance

In many cases, the department is able to provide the technical expertise as an engineering practitioner to help a landowner develop a manure storage facility closure plan that meets applicable standards and requirements at no cost. The department can also assist landowners with the bidding process to review proposed construction costs and hire contractors. In addition, cost-share funding may be available to assist with the costs to properly close a manure storage facility. A cost-share contract needs to be signed prior to construction starting.

Questions? We're here to help!

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department - Land Conservation Division

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