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Winnebago County

Solid Waste Management Board

The Wave of the Future

DATE: June 20, 2023

TO: Town of Clayton, Village of Winneconne, City of Omro, Town of Winchester,
Town of Winneconne Administration

FROM: Kathy Hutter – Operations Manager 
khutter@winnebagocountywi.gov
920-232-1853

RE: Waste Management-Berlin Recycling Contamination & Probationary Period

In recent weeks single-stream recycling delivered to the Tri-County Recycling Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) by Waste Management (WM) was flagged for contamination, odor complaints and deteriorated materials. The shipments were consolidated at WM-Berlin and contained Winnebago County Signing Municipal recycling mixed with other communities' recycling. This material is beyond acceptable levels for contamination and degradation (see attached photos).

In response, the Outagamie County Resource Recovery & Recycling Administration, acting on behalf of Tri-County Recycling and following past practices, has placed WM-Berlin on probation, giving them 2-weeks to correct the situation. During the probationary period their material will continue to be evaluated and if it does not improve, it will be turned away completely. Being a co-owner of this facility, Winnebago County Solid Waste supports this action.

If WM-Berlin's recyclable material is banned entirely from the MRF we will no longer be able to keep your community tonnage in our system. You will also lose the value of those tonnages when we disburse our shared program revenues at the end of the year. The only way around this will be for you to require WM to deliver your recyclables directly to the Winnebago County Transfer Station in Oshkosh. We will only accept residential route collection trucks that come directly from your community – i.e. no commercial loads, no loads mixed with non-Signing Municipal recyclables, no roll-off boxes coming from a consolidation point, etc.

We will continue to monitor the situation. If you have questions, please contact me directly at the above email or telephone number. Thank you.

KH/kh/JMR

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