



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois EPA Refers Stony Island Reclamation Co. and J.L.W. Trucking, LLC d/b/a Whole Earth Compost to Attorney General's Office for Enforcement *Action Taken Following Fire at a Compost Facility*

Springfield – The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has referred an enforcement action to the Illinois Attorney General's Office against Stony Island Reclamation Co. and J.L.W. Trucking, LLC d/b/a Whole Earth Compost for a fire at the Harbor View Composting Facility, located at 2000 East 122nd Street in Chicago (Cook County). Stony Island Reclamation Co. is the owner of the facility, and Whole Earth Compost, LLC is listed as the operator on the facility's permit.

Illinois EPA conducted an inspection of the facility on April 23, 2026. Operation managers for the facility indicated the facility had a fire that started in early April. Illinois EPA inspectors observed one pile of unprocessed landscape waste and several piles of processed landscape waste that were smoldering throughout the site. Several of these areas were located within proximity of an existing gas extraction well with a leachate extraction pump. This well is designed to extract methane, which is a highly flammable gas. Additionally, an open flame was observed in one of the piles of processed landscape waste. Facility representatives stated that recent wind had spread embers throughout the site. A significant amount of litter was also observed, which served as an additional potential fire threat.

Illinois EPA is seeking immediate injunctive relief under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and has requested the Illinois Attorney General's Office obtain an order requiring the defendants to immediately extinguish all fires and evaluate all piles for internal fires, remove all litter from the site, monitor all extraction wells for fires or smoldering, and extinguish any fires in those wells. Illinois EPA cited multiple violations of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations in the referral.

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