

**From:** [Stephenson - DNR, Douglas](#)  
**To:** [Alan Goldich](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Cowboy Compost  
**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022 4:20:35 PM

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I wouldn't consider composting a source of contamination but if the county does and it is closer than 50 ft. of the well the county would be responsible for issuing any variance for the distance to the existing well if required. Your approval of the use is not a variance.

On Fri, Feb 18, 2022, 3:44 PM Alan Goldich <[agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:agoldich@co.routt.co.us)> wrote:

Doug,

My name is Alan Goldich and I'm with the Routt County Planning Department. Erin Light sent me your comments on this and I wanted to follow up with you to give some more information and get some clarification. The proposal is for an Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Compost Facility (CDPHE classification). These can only have up to 5 cubic yards of in-process compost (compost that has not met prescribed time and temperature requirements). The only things that can be composted is kitchen scraps. A CDPHE general stormwater permit will be obtained by the operator. CDPHE does not require a groundwater mitigation plan until you have 5,000 cubic yards in process and Planning Commission did not think one was necessary. The Board of County Commissioners will be making the final decision on this on March 1.

In your comments you say "variance." Do you mean the County's review of this particular land use? Thank you for your time looking into this. Have a good weekend.

*Alan Goldich*

*Routt County Planning*

*970-879-2704*

*136 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 200*

*Steamboat Springs, CO 80477*

[Agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:Agoldich@co.routt.co.us)



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**From:** Light - DNR, Erin <[erin.light@state.co.us](mailto:erin.light@state.co.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 2:54 PM

**To:** Alan Goldich <[agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:agoldich@co.routt.co.us)>

**Cc:** Winn Cowman <[winn.cowman@yvsc.org](mailto:winn.cowman@yvsc.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Cowboy Compost

Alan - I did hear back from our Chief Well Inspector and the long and skinny of it is, there are too many unknowns. None-the-less his response was (and I am sorry his response is a bit unclear):

"The rules apply to newly constructed wells and distances from contamination. If an existing well will be closer than it is up to the governing body of the potential contamination source to issue the variance. A compost operation has never been presented to us. I think that if the process will create a contaminant then it should be reviewed by the Routt County and they would issue the variance. Not knowing the well construction the steel surface casing could be 20 ft. to 40 ft. deep. What type of contaminant and Is the county requiring monitor wells to test for contamination during the composting? Too many unknowns to give you a solid answer."

**Erin Light, P.E.**

Division Engineer, Water Division 6



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On Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 11:09 AM Alan Goldich <[agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:agoldich@co.routt.co.us)> wrote:

Hi Erin. Any word on this?

*Alan Goldich*

*Routt County Planning*

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*Steamboat Springs, CO 80477*

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**From:** Light - DNR, Erin <[erin.light@state.co.us](mailto:erin.light@state.co.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 9:07 AM

**To:** Alan Goldich <[agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:agoldich@co.routt.co.us)>

**Cc:** Winn Cowman <[winn.cowman@yvsc.org](mailto:winn.cowman@yvsc.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Cowboy Compost

Alan - I am going to have to send these questions to our chief of well inspections. I will do that and get back with you soon.

**Erin Light, P.E.**

Division Engineer, Water Division 6



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On Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 3:24 PM Alan Goldich <[agoldich@co.routt.co.us](mailto:agoldich@co.routt.co.us)> wrote:

Hi Erin. Hope your winter has been going well. I'm working on a SUP application for a compost facility at the old Bobcat dealership by the Hayden airport. The address is 11730 US HIGHWAY 40. One of the neighbors has expressed some concerns with this operation in relation to their well. Their residence is located at 11635 COUNTY ROAD 69, Hayden, CO. I looked at the well map on the DWR page and there is no well showing up on this property. There is no well showing up on the subject property either, but I know it has one. He said it is right behind their house. In his comments he referenced the Water Well Construction rules, specifically rule 10 which states wells should be located at least 100' from an open contaminant source. I've got a few questions:

1. I interpret these rules to apply to the construction of wells, not the placement of uses after the well has been constructed. Is this an accurate assessment?
2. Would a compost operation which processes less than 5 cubic yard of material at a time be considered a contaminant source?

Have a good weekend!

*Alan Goldich*

*Routt County Planning*

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