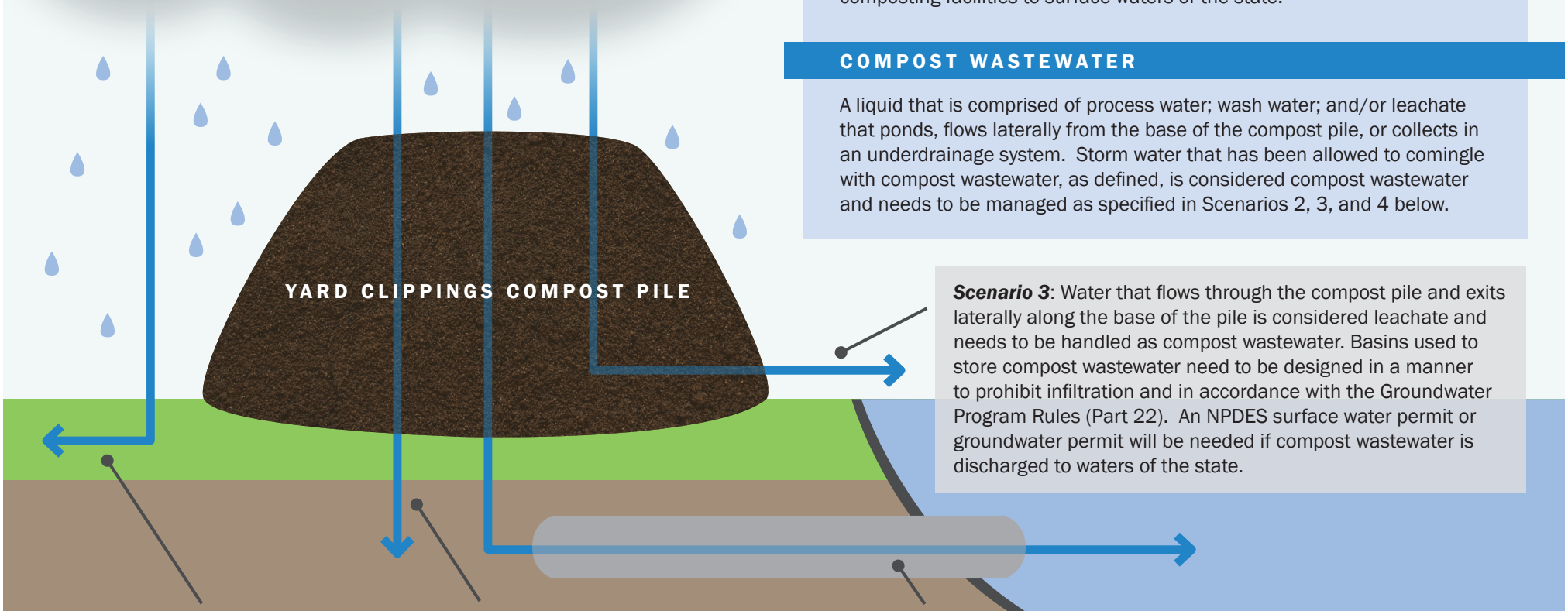
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WATER DISCHARGE DIAGRAM
FOR YARD CLIPPINGS COMPOSTING FACILITIES



STORM WATER

Originates during precipitation (rain, snow, and ice) events. It means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, ice melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage. Storm water that does not come in contact with compostable materials can be handled and discharged as storm water. Commercial and municipal composting facilities that have a Standard Industrial Classification code that is regulated by the federal storm water regulations and/or meets the definition of a yard clippings composting facility and qualifies as a registered composting facility under the solid waste rules (Part 115 Rules) need to comply with the state and federal storm water regulations. A storm water permit is required if storm water is discharged from regulated composting facilities to surface waters of the state.

COMPOST WASTEWATER

A liquid that is comprised of process water; wash water; and/or leachate that ponds, flows laterally from the base of the compost pile, or collects in an underdrainage system. Storm water that has been allowed to comingle with compost wastewater, as defined, is considered compost wastewater and needs to be managed as specified in Scenarios 2, 3, and 4 below.

Scenario 3: Water that flows through the compost pile and exits laterally along the base of the pile is considered leachate and needs to be handled as compost wastewater. Basins used to store compost wastewater need to be designed in a manner to prohibit infiltration and in accordance with the Groundwater Program Rules (Part 22). An NPDES surface water permit or groundwater permit will be needed if compost wastewater is discharged to waters of the state.

Scenario 1: Storm Water that does not come in contact with compostable materials or compost wastewater can be managed as storm water.

Scenario 2: Water that flows straight through the compost pile and enters the ground does not need a groundwater discharge permit however the facility has an obligation not to cause environmental contamination or nuisance conditions as specified in the Groundwater Program Rules (Part 22, specifically Rule 2204).

Scenario 4: Water that flows through the compost pile and is collected in an under drainage system is considered leachate and needs to be handled as compost wastewater. Basins used to store compost wastewater need to be designed in a manner to prohibit infiltration and in accordance with the Groundwater Program Rules (Part 22). An NPDES surface water permit or groundwater permit will be needed if compost wastewater is discharged to waters of the state.

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