

**WEST VIRGINIA - NEWLY BUILT CLASS A SLUDGE FACILITY NEVER WORKED PROPERLY - no market for the sludge;**

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[http://www.wsaz.com/home/headlines/Charleston Sanitary Board Wins 26 Million in Lawsuit 132856678.html](http://www.wsaz.com/home/headlines/Charleston_Sanitary_Board_Wins_26_Million_in_Lawsuit_132856678.html)

**Charleston Sanitary Board Wins \$2.6 Million in Lawsuit**

The Charleston Sanitary Board will get more than \$2.6 million from a company it had hired to make compost out of yard waste and sewage sludge generated in the city.

Reporter: The Associated Press

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CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) - The Charleston Sanitary Board will get more than \$2.6 million from a company it had hired to make compost out of yard waste and sewage sludge generated in the city. A ruling by Kanawha Circuit Judge Paul Zakaib Jr. said the company failed to design and build the composting facility as it promised. The city planned to sell the compost generated by the new facility. But a lawsuit contends the facility that began operating in 1998 never worked properly. The Charleston Sanitary Board filed its lawsuit in 2000, seeking \$1.5 million in damages. Zakaib awarded the board \$1.57 million in damages and \$1.06 million in interest.

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**HISTORY:**

**The city's trash-to-treasure placed ended up costing taxpayers millions**

Wednesday May 03, 2006

IN 1998, the city of Charleston embarked upon a grand experiment: It opened a \$6 million composting facility to turn treated human waste and grass clippings into treasure. The idea was to marry 55 tons of sewage sludge with yard waste and sell 36 tons of compost a day. What could be more pleasing? In 1993, city officials told the Daily Mail's Karen Klein they expected the product to be worth \$3 a ton. By 2000, they told then-reporter Monica Orosz that they hoped for a profit of \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year. But by 2002, it was clear that the city had created a mess, not a moneymaker. Deanna Wrenn reported that 1) the city was renting a machine for \$30,000 a month to pre-treat the sludge, 2) the compost wasn't selling and the city sometimes couldn't give it away, and 3) the city would save a quarter of a million dollars a year if it stopped. This week, the Daily Mail's Justin Anderson reported that it would take \$2.8 million to keep the facility going. The Sanitary Board doesn't have it. So the board -- sewer bill payers -- will pay \$556,000 a year to take the sludge to the landfill. And city taxpayers will pay about \$168,000 a year to haul yard waste to the same place. That's patently ridiculous. But it's cheaper than paying about \$913,000 a year to continue the ruinous compost adventure. <http://www.dailymail.com/news/Opinion/200605031/>