



# It's a New Year in the NEBRAhood. . . Happy 2021!

#### January 15, 2021

# **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

U.S. Composting Council will be hosting <u>COMPOST2021</u>, a virtual event this year, January 26th and 27th.

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Winter Conference will be held virtually on January 27th and 28th.

NEBRA Lunch & Learn -- Looking Back, Looking Ahead at the State of Biosolids in the Region, January 29th at Noon EST.

The New England Water **Environment Association's** 2021 annual conference will be held virtually January 26 & 28 and February 2 & 4. Residuals Handling session is on February 2nd starting at Noon.

American Water Works Association is hosting a virtual conference February 10th and 11th on Sustainable Water, PFAS, and Waterborne Pathogens.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies Winter Virtual Event is February 24th and 25th beginning at 2 pm each day.

NEBRA Lunch & Learn about the Science and Control of Odors, Part 3 on February 26th at Noon.

Virtual Australian Water Association and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership's Biosolids National Conference, March 4th and 5th. Dr. Sally Brown will be the keynote speaker.

Northeast Waste Management Officials Association Northeast Conference -- The Science of PFAS: Public Health & The Environment, March 29th and 30th in Framingham, MA.

# EPA Publishes Interim Guidance on **Destruction/Disposal of PFAS** Comments Due by February 22nd

On December 18th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its "Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances" for public comment by February 22nd. EPA was required to develop the PFAS guidance within one year per the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2020, signed into law on December 19, 2019. The FY2020 NDAA specifically required EPA to provide guidance for the destruction and disposal of PFAS for the following: (1) aqueous film-forming foam; (2) soil and biosolids; Read more. . .

# **Update on the National Biosolids Data Project, 2nd National Survey Underway**

"Where have all the biosolids gone, long time passing? Where have all the biosolids gone, long time ago?" (a nod to Pete <u>Seeger</u>)

That's the question being answered by the second National Biosolids Data Project. In 2007, NEBRA, BioCycle, North West Biosolids, and Greg Kester of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (now with the California Association of Sanitation Agencies), completed the first comprehensive collection of data on biosolids use and disposal in the U.S., publishing state-by-state reports and a national summary (available at the web link provided below). The same team is at it again, with the addition of the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) and help from other biosolids groups and state committees. The "long time ago" is 2018 - that's the data year for this second major national survey.

PFAS Forum, April 28th to 30th in Tampa Florida.

WEF's Residuals & Biosolids Conference will be held May 11th through the 14th.

Save the Date: Green Mountain Water Environment Association Spring Meeting on May 20th.

FOR MORE EVENTS, go to NEBRA's Events Page.

• Job Opportunities! Check out several recent job postings on our • website.

# CHECK IT OUT:

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Standing up for biosolids-based Dino Dirt in Denton, Texas.

India facility to return to "natural" treatment, ducks to clean wastewater lagoons.

Don't do this at work! Alabama wastewater operator arrested for making wine at treatment facility.

Gold bars found in Belgian sewers -- workers who found them may get a share if no one claims them!

New sustainable trains that run on biomethane being developed in the UK.

Sewer Art! From graffitti inside sewer pipes to "solargraphy" using sewer pipe and beer cans.

Women-owned Australian septage hauling business highlighted in essential services news series.





The goal is to provide a robust set of data from one year – a snapshot of how wastewater solids - sewage sludges - are treated, regulated, beneficially used, and/or disposed of in every U. S. state and territory. More. . .

# Senator Shaheen Secures Federal Funds or PFAS Efforts in NH

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen from New Hampshire initiated and supported numerous measures in recently-approved federal legislation which will bring needed funds to the State to deal with its per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) challenges. Senator Shaheen is a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee serving alongside other New England State Senators Susan Collins from Maine, Patrick Leahy from Vermont, Christopher Murphy from Connecticut, and Jack Reed from Rhode Island. Senator Leahy will be the Chair of the Committee for the upcoming 118th Congress. <u>More. . .</u>

# In Brief / en bref...

#### Annual Sludge/Biosolids Reports Due to EPA by

#### February 19th

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) eReporting Team sent out a reminder at the end of December about the upcoming deadline for the 2020 Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Reports. They are due by February 19, 2021 and are required to be submitted electronically in accordance with the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule (40 CFR Part 127). You can access your annual report, NETBIO, through the Central Data Exchange (CDX). EPA has also scheduled electronic reporting training on January 14th and February 10th. To register for training, click <u>here</u>. EPA will post a recording of the training on its website in late January. For additional information and resources such as a User's Guide and Frequently Asked Questions, go the Biosolids NeT Zendesk website.

## Vermont Legislation Proposes to Ban Land Application

Vermont Representative James McCullough of Williston has proposed legislation related to solids waste, similar to legislation proposed for the

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<u>NEFCO</u> Casella Organics Northern Tilth

**Stantec** 

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater **Association** 

Lystek

**CDM Smith** 

Brown & Caldwell

<u>Agresource</u>

Synagro Northeast

Englobe

**Resource Management** Inc.

THANK YOU!

#### **NEBRA Member in** the News (from WE&T magazine)

Gruppo Pieralisi (West Chester Township, Ohio) and NEBRA Member Heartland Water Technology Inc. (Hudson, Massachusetts) announced a strategic partnership focused on biosolids management. Specifically, the partnership will cover municipal solids, livestock manures and digested solids. The partnership will leverage Pieralisi's direct contact rotary drum dryer for use across the country and use complementary technologies and business strategies to ensure coordinated customer satisfaction.

past few years, that would ban land application of sludge or septage except for exceptional quality biosolids. The bill (<u>H-3</u>) would require municipally-owned wastewater treatment facilities to accept septage for treatment. It would also establish a Biosolids Conversion Special Fund to provide grants to municipal wastewater facilities for the purpose of converting septage and sludge to exceptional quality biosolids. For a good discussion of the proposed legislation, see the January 10th article in VTDigger "States New Solid Waste Rules Don't Solve the Sludge Problem".

#### **EPA Issues Interim NPDES Strategy on PFAS**

At the end of November, EPA issued guidance for its permit writers to address per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Interim Strategy for PFAS in federally-Issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits was developed by EPA's PFAS NPDES Regional Coordinators Committee. Recommendations include permit requirements for phased-in PFAS monitoring and best management practices "as appropriate, taking into consideration when PFAS are expected to be present in point source wastewater discharges," including regulated stormwater discharges. According to the memorandum from EPA Assistant Administrator David P. Ross, "The workgroup recommends a phased approach to any potential PFAS monitoring provision, such that monitoring requirements are triggered at a time after EPA's multi-lab validated methods are made available to the public. The Office of Water expects to have a multi-lab validated PFAS analytical method available for detecting certain PFAS in wastewater and several other matrices in 2021."

### **NEBRA Writes Letters in Support of EPA Biosolids Research Grants**

As reported in NEBRAMail back in November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Request for Applications for biosolids research grant proposals to identify, characterize and manage risks of known and emerging chemical pollutants found in biosolids. EPA is making nearly \$6 million available to private nonprofit institutions and public and private universities and colleges within the U.S. doing this kind of research. The grant solicitation opened on October 13th and closed on January 5th. Read more. .

Town of Nantucket Looking for Interested Parties to Assist with Waste Management



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# Looking for Content

NEBRA is always looking for good content -- like stories for **NEBRAMail and topics for** webinars. We welcome articles from and presentations by members. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the <u>NEBRA office</u> as we plan the 2021 Lunch & Learn schedule.

The Town of Nantucket has issued a Request for Expressions of Interest in Solid Waste Management for Nantucket Island (RFEI). The RFEI requests responses from firms that might provide contract operations for the existing Composter facility, Municipal Recycling Facility and other solid waste management facilities as well as development of an organics processing facility on land leased from the Town. The RFEI is for services starting as of December 1, 2025. The RFEI and additional information can be accessed on the Town website. The deadline for responses is February 11, 2021, which the Town reserves the right to extend.

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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