



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

May 5, 2023

National PFAS Receivers Issue Joint Letter, Ask Congress for CERCLA Exemption

Last month, the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association, the New England Water Environment Association, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), and the National League of Cities, were among the more than 30 organizations signing onto a letter to Congress asking for statutory relief from the so-called "Superfund Law". . .



Photo Credit: B. Polichetti

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NEBRA ED Participates in Biosolids Panel Discussion with Regulators

North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA)'s Executive Director Janine Burke-Wells recently participated in a roundtable discussion on Best Practices on PFAS & Biosolids as part of the Spring Meeting of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS – [The Environmental Council of the States \(ECOS\) | Improving the capability of state and territorial environmental agencies](#)).



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EPA Biosolids Panel Kicks Off Review Effort

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Biosolids Panel had its first meeting on April 5th to kick off its review of EPA's "Approach to Biosolids Chemical Risk Assessment and Biosolids Tool."



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Maine DEP Reports to Legislature on Septage Disposal

Back in January, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MaineDEP) submitted its report on the land application of septage to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. This report to the legislature was another requirement of LD1911 (An Act to Prevent the Further Contamination of the Soils and Waters of the State with So-called Forever Chemicals) which became law in 2022.

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En Bref -- In Brief

NEBRA Submits Comments on Quebec Proposal to Ban U.S. Biosolids

On April 8th, NEBRA submitted comments to the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) – Quebec's environmental regulators – regarding its proposed regulatory amendment to ban imports of U.S. biosolids for use in direct agricultural application. NEBRA's comments were focused on the benefits of recycling and the risks of not land applying biosolids and residuals. MELCCFP has issued a temporary moratorium on the import of U.S. biosolids and has published an update to its guide for recycling residuals or "matières résiduelles fertilisantes" (MRF). The updates to the [Guide](#) will remain in effect until control measures are in place. See NEBRA's letter on the Reg-Leg Committee [webpage](#).

Submit an Abstract for NEWEA Specialty Conference on CEC and Plant Operations

It's not too late to submit an abstract for NEWEA's Plant Operations and Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Committees joint [Specialty Conference & Exhibit](#) to be held at the Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on September 13th. NEWEA is still seeking abstracts related to CECs, like PFAS, and plant operations including operational strategies, treatment technologies, policy & regulations, and measurement & quantification. A full list of abstract topics and more information can be found at [Call for Proposals | CEC/Plant Operations Conference \(pheedloop.com\)](#). Abstract deadline is Friday, **May 12, 2023**. The NEWEA Innovation Committee is looking to host a **Vendor Showcase for CEC/PFAS treatment technologies** with focused exhibit hall presentations. Interested Vendors should submit a Showcase abstract for exhibit hall presentations.

WEF RBC Seeks Chair, Authors and Reviewers for Publication on Co-Digestion

The Co-Digestion Task Force of the Water Environment Federation (WEF)'s Residuals and Biosolids Committee's Bioenergy Focus Group, is leading efforts to organize authors for a WEF technical publication focused on co-digestion best practices. Check out the initial [draft outline](#) of the content for this WEF Manual of Practice. The Task Force seeks authors with relevant experience in co-digestion, including, but not limited to, design, construction, operations, and laboratory. Positions available include publication lead, chapter leads, authors, and reviewers. Please contact Juliet Ntamoah-Ohemeng (Juliet.ohemeng@ntiamoah.com) if interested.

Do Your Part, Make Your Voice Heard – WEF Makes It Easy

Right now, the biggest concerns for biosolids managers and other "passive receivers" is the looming CERCLA liability (see article above). You can do your part to let your federal delegates know by using WEF's Water Advocates program. It helps you locate your Senators and Representatives and provides suggested language which you can edit and make your own. Please contact your elected official and let them know how CERCLA liability will affect your facility or business. Ask them to consider a narrow exemption for wastewater utilities as part of any PFAS legislation. <https://t.co/rhUEsRlu8v>

Another New Biosolids Association is Established for the Southeast U.S.

NEBRAMail is thrilled to announce the launch of the Southeast Biosolids Association (SEBA), a new association dedicated to promoting solutions for managing biosolids in the southeast region. The association brings together industry leaders, experts, and advocates who are committed to advancing best practices, improving public understanding, and supporting responsible management of biosolids in the Southeast. Like NEBRA in the Northeast, SEBA will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and fostering collaboration among members and stakeholders in the Southeast. SEBA plans to offer a range of resources, including public outreach, tracking legislation/regulations, and biosolids advocacy support, to help members stay informed, engaged, and effective in their work.

SEBA incorporated in Florida in February 2023 as a nonprofit 501 (c)(6) and will represent interests of biosolids managers in **Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina**. SEBA plans to expand to additional southeast states in the near future. For more information visit www.sebiosolids.org or contact Felicia Morrissette info@sebiosolids.org

CHECK IT OUT!!

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[Plants inspire scientists](#) to recover minerals, metals from wastewater

[Worms](#) for wastewater treatment?

[Poozeum.com](#) -- everything you want to know about coprolites, dinosaur poop and fossilized feces!

Meet [Bruce the Water Guy](#).



Upcoming Events

- May 12:** Lunch & Learn About: [DryVac Dewatering and Drying Technology](#)
- May 16-18:** WEF [Residuals & Biosolids Conference](#) in Charlotte, NC
- May 22-23:** Northeast Resource Recovery Association's [Recycling Conference](#)
- May 25:** Green Mountain Water Environment Association's [Spring Meeting](#)
- June 6-9:** NEWEA/NYWEA Joint [Spring Meeting](#) in Saratoga Springs, NY
- June 13:** Midwest Biosolids Association [Webinar](#) on Navigating PFAS Policies with a focus on Maine
- June 22:** EPA [webinar](#) on Developing and Implementing PFAS Monitoring Strategies for NPDES Pretreatment Programs and POTWs
- June 23:** Lunch & Learn About: [Landfill Capacity for Biosolids in the Northeast](#)

For a complete listing of Events, go to www.nebiosolids.org/events.

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