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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

#### September 3, 2020

#### EVENTS...

Lunch & Learn about Biosolids Master Planning on September 11. See <u>NEBRA Events</u>.

The Air & Waste Management Association will host a virtual summit on The Science of PFAS, September 15 -17.

The Maine Water Environment Association will hold its 2020 conference virtually, September 16th through the 18th.

NEBRA will participate in the **Massachusetts Coalition for Water** Resources Stewardship's panel discussion on The Future of PFAS on September 17th.

Virginia Biosolids Council is hosting a virtual informational webinar on September 23rd featuring presentations by researchers Linda Lee (Purdue) and Greg Avanylo (Virginia Tech).

The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association's annual Trade Show/Spring meeting has been rescheduled to September 25th.

Lunch & Learn About the Science and Control of Odors (Part 3) on September 25th. See NEBRA Events.

The Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance's Annual Phosphorus Forum will be held virtually this year on September 30th and October 1st.

The Massachusetts Water Environment Association is hosting a golf tournament on September 30th.

WEFTEC Connect, October 5-9, is open for registration.

Lunch & Learn About Biohubs and Other **Biosolids Management Stratgeies in** Australia on October 23rd. See NEBRA Events.

# The 2nd National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use & Disposal Survey

After exhausting current leads for funding from regulatory agencies, NEBRA and partners BioCycle, Northwest Biosolids, and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), are moving ahead with private funding to complete the 2nd National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use, and Disposal Survey, compiling 2018 data (pre-PFAS and pre-COVID). The 1st survey report performed by NEBRA and partners was published in 2007, compiling 2004 data on biosolids generated and managed across the country. These data remain the most comprehensive set available and have been relied on and referenced by biosolids management professionals, engineering consultants, researchers, policy makers, regulators, and technology vendors nationwide. But they are outdated. For years, there have been calls for an update.

Greg Kester, Director of Renewable Resource Programs for CASA says "We as a profession are weakened without data about what we do." With the need great, NEBRA has gotten the team back together to begin work to update this important national dataset. Read more.

DONATE to NBDP

# A National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use & Disposal Survey



# Fall Internship

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is seeking a student to assist with its PFAS in wastewater and residuals project. See NEBRA job opportunities webpage for more information,

### CHECK IT OUT:

**Biosolids fueling Canadian cement** plant! Read about it here.

Wastewater grit can be used for pothole repairs! See article in Water World magazine.

Cool short video from a NEBRA member: From Waste to Worth -How Synagro Uses Biosolids to Protect Our Environment.

New Zealand worm farm uses biosolids, septage, and paper pulp waste to grow business.

Danbury, Connecticut, Mayor said they plan to <u>name its wastewater</u> treatment facility after comedian John Oliver after he made fun of the town on his show Last Week Tonight With John Oliver. Oliver says he will make a \$50,000 donation to charity if Danbury follows through.

Japan's recent wastewater infrastructure innovations include lighted manhole covers and transparent public toilets.

Take a quiz, win a tee shirt if you know the actual name for the gemstone known as landscape quartz (*hint*: the name means sludge in Portuguese).

In Deep: A new Podcast that explores the complex science of making clean water.



### **Biosolids Master Planning More**

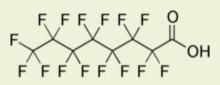
## **Important Than Ever**

Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF) managers need to have a master plan when it comes to how their facilities will manage its biosolids into the future. With all the uncertainties in the biosolids enduse markets due to PFAS and now COVID, thinking long-term and having a plan is critical. According to Brown & Caldwell's Natalie **Sierra**, "PFAS and Coronavirus are the stress tests on the biosolids management capacity in the Northeast." Read more.

**REGISTER for NEBRA's Master Planning Webinar!** 

# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is **Common Denominator in Innovative Solids Handling Solutions**

In August, NEBRA hosted two Lunch & Learn webinars on innovative technologies for wastewater and solids/residuals treatment. The technologies – mechanical vapor recompression and super critical water oxidation -- are actually not new technologies but they are being applied in a new way to address current wastewater issues. Thanks to grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, both technologies have advanced to the commercial application stage. Both technologies address the need for cost-effective solutions to current problems including the amount and quality of biosolids we need to manage. <u>Read more. . .</u>



# **Updated PFAS Resources**

NEBRA has updated the following PFAS resources: • PFAS Sampling and Analysis Guidance (8/11/2020) including an updated list of PFAS testing laboratories and new information on analytical methods. Go to: https://www.nebiosolids.org/pfas-samplinganalysis-guidance.

# In Brief / en bref...

### New Report by Michigan Environmental Agency is a Valuable Resource for WRRFs

#### **IDs Industrial Sources of PFAS**

According to a new report from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the major sources of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) sources to water resources recovery facilities (WRRFs) in Michigan were landfills that accepted industrial wastes, metal finishers with a history of fume suppressant use, and contaminated sites associated with industries or activities with PFOS usage. Read more. .

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THANK YOU!

#### NEWS from NEBRA

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "<u>News</u>" page.



#### EPA Funds Major Research Projects on PFAS

Purdue University will receive about \$1.6 million for its proposed research study to be led by Dr. Linda Lee. This project, which NEBRA supported and will play a minor in, will evaluate PFAS occurrence and fate in rural water supplies and agricultural operations in order to inform management strategies. For a much more detailed article about this project featuring Dr. Lee, check out Treatment Plant Operator magazine.

Read about the other research projects EPA is funding. . .

### Wastewater-Based Epidemiology Evolving to Aid in **COVID Response**

In its August <u>regulatory update</u>, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies provided some great information about the status of the Wastewater-Based Epidemiology (WBE) work going on at water resource recovery facilities all across the nation. WBE is of great interest to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and these federal agencies continue to be actively involved, along with state health departments, in developing standardized methods and identifying critical utilities to participate in the wastewater testing efforts. Read more...

### NACWA Continues Support for EPA's Biosolids **Procurement Designation**

In comments filed on July 6, the National Association of Clean Water Administrators continued its support of the U.S. Enrironmental Protection Agency maintaining the existing Comprehensive Procurement Guideline Designations (CPG) and Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) recommendations for landscaping products, which includes compost made from recovered organic materials like biosolids. Read more...

#### Of Interest: Some Proposed Regulations and A Grant

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Marketing Services proposed rule under the National Organics Program. According to the rule summary, the changes are "intended to protect the integrity of the organic supply chain and build consumer and industry trust in the USDA organic label." Comments are due October 5th. NEBRA will be working with WEF and NACWA on a comment letter.
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has reopened the public comment period on its Draft 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan to consider, among other things, the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on solid waste management. There are more online public hearings (September 1st and 10th) and comments are due September <u>15th</u>.
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has issued an Advance Notice of on the regulation of PFAS as a class. Public comment period ends October 15th.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is offering grants under its Brownfields Program. Applications are due by October 28th. This could be

CHECK OUT EPA's NEW

**BIOSOLIDS WEBSITE:** 

https://www.epa.gov/biosolids

great use for biosolids and residuals. NEBRA is willing to assist any members with information and support for a grant application.

# Correction

In the last NEBRAMail (July 27, 2020), we mixed up some details about the sampling, testing, and results carried out by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) on a dairy farm where PFAS contamination was recently found. We appreciate clarifications we received from DACF. We corrected the online version of the article on July 29th.

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