



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

March 26, 2024

Recent Litigation on PFAS in Biosolids: The Tip of the Iceberg?

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) has filed notice of its intent to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of “injured individuals,” accusing EPA of “neglecting its legal obligation to regulate PFAS in biosolids” if EPA does not take action in 60 days. A February 22nd [press release](#) from PEER reviews PEER’s accusations against EPA.

[Read more...](#)



Senate EPW Committee Holds Hearing on PFAS Liability under CERCLA

The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to discuss liability concerns for passive PFAS receivers, like water/wastewater utilities and landfills. The hearing, “Examining PFAS as Hazardous Substances,” comes as the EPA looks to list PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The hearing is the latest in a series of stakeholder meetings led by Chairman Tom Carper (D-Delaware) since the bill he introduced with Ranking Member Shelly Moore Capito (R-West Virginia), last July.

[Read more...](#)

All Hands on Deck: New York City reaches out for

partners and guidance as it pivots to reuse

Anna Meyer for NEBRA

New York City's massive wastewater utility is seeking partners to help divert 100% of the city's biosolids from landfills to beneficial uses by 2030. A citywide commitment to reduce greenhouse gasses is a major driver of the pivot, as is the dramatically rising cost of landfill disposal. As an extremely densely populated urban area, New York City has minimal space for land application of biosolids. That's why the city's Department of Environmental Protection is releasing a series of solicitations to identify partners both within the city and around the region for conventional land application and alternative beneficial uses of biosolids.

[Read more...](#)

Portland Maine is Charting Its Biosolids Future

Portland Water District (PWD), Portland, Maine, is proactively seeking solutions for sustainable management of biosolids in Southern Maine. In the summer of 2023, PWD issued a Request for Information (RFI) on a Biosolids Processing Facility. PWD sought information from potential vendors to explore available technologies and services for receiving and processing undigested and dewatered sludge from PWD and (potentially) the surrounding communities. Although the primary focus is volume reduction, and to produce a more "landfillable" product, alternative beneficial end uses for solids are possible.

[Read more...](#)

En Bref -- In Brief

EPA Issues Part 503 Guidance for Lagoon System Operators

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water issued guidance last month for operators of lagoon wastewater treatment systems to assist with compliance with the Part 503 requirements for these wastewater sludges or biosolids to be recycled to land. Reviewers from the Northeast included Anthony Drouin from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Eamon Twohig from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This compilation of best management practices for lagoon clean outs including planning components such as permitting and funding. Lagoon clean outs are eligible for State Revolving Loan funding as they are not considered routine operations and maintenance activities. There is a chapter on sampling and analysis, specifically what is required for compliance. The final chapter on doing land application includes guidance on using nitrogen as a factor to select sites, site-specific requirements, dewatering/removal of sludges, transport and storage, monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements.

Go here to access the document: [*Understanding Lagoon Requirements Under 40 C.F.R. Part 503: Best Management Practices for Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge, Part 1 – Land Application of Sewage Sludge Removed from Lagoons.*](#)

NEBRA's Burke-Wells and Beecher Team Up for International BEAM Presentation

NEBRA's current and former Executive Directors teamed up to do a presentation on the Biosolids Emissions

Assessment Model (BEAM) for the Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership ([ANZBP](#)) on February 20th which was February 21st for the attendees in Australia and New Zealand. As part of the one-hour webinar, Burke-Wells and Beecher reviewed the [BEAM*2022](#) tool, how it works and how to use it to account for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from biosolids management activities. The other presenter was Dr. Grant Clark from McGill University who is doing research on GHG emissions from processing and field application of biosolids. For more resources on GHG emissions from biosolids, go to the NEBRA website: [Resources: Key Topics of Interest — NEBRA \(nebiosolids.org\)](#).

MassDEP is Surveying Anyone in the Region Dealing with its Biosolids

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is asking for help from anyone managing biosolids meaning from within the Commonwealth. The survey is part of a larger study of PFAS and Residuals Technology and Management in Massachusetts. They want responses from all the Water Resource Recovery Facilities, of course, but are also surveying septage haulers, landfills, and companies handling wastewater sludges or biosolids from Massachusetts. The Commonwealth is looking to develop a sustainable approach to managing sludge in Massachusetts. The study takes into account economic, technical, and logistical realities, as well as infrastructure limitations. After collecting comprehensive data on sludge and septage, the study will evaluate the existing disposal practices and capacities both within the state and beyond its borders.

EPA Creates New Office of Agriculture & Rural Affairs

U.S. EPA Administrator Michael Regan announced the creation of a new office to expand engagement with agriculture as well as rural communities. On March 1st, he introduced the new EPA Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to be headed up by Rod Snyder who has been Regan's top advisor on agriculture for about 3 and a half years. The [new office](#) will facilitate closer coordination with federal and state partners including the US Department of Agriculture and US Food and Drug Administration. The new office will be responsible for the ongoing Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee.

CHECK IT OUT!!

[Human Pee Might Just Be the Key to Saving Seagrass | Innovation | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

[Flush! Where does our poo and pee go? - Brains On! Science podcast for kids | Podcast on Spotify](#)

[Pee-Cycling -- Featuring Vermont's Rich Earth Institute](#)

[Astronauts' urine and sweat are almost entirely recycled into drinking water with new system \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

[The Edinburgh 'poo ship' MV Gardyloo that's still afloat - in Azerbaijan - Edinburgh Live](#)



Upcoming Events

April 2 - 4: NEWMOA conference, The Science of PFAS: Public Health & The Environment (Marlborough, MA)

April 18: WEF Webcast: State of Thermal Treatment of PFAS in Residuals

April 26: Lunch & Learn about EPA's Clean Water Technology Center/SCOWT and Biosolids Program

May 19 - 22: New England Water Environment Association Spring Meeting, Newport, RI

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

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