



**Abbreviated
Holiday Edition!**



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

December 22, 2023

Taking the Reins: The Case for Proactive and Ongoing PFAS Communications

Anna Meyer for NEBRA

These days, wastewater utilities often become scapegoats for community fears about per- and polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS). But it doesn't have to be that way. The Madison (Wisconsin) Metropolitan Sewerage District, a NEBRA member, has been working since 2019 to set the record straight about the utility's role as a receiver of PFAS and to establish its place as a provider of facts and data to help people make informed, independent judgments about risks. Amanda Wegner, the District's communications and public affairs director, sees evidence that the District has built community trust in its approach to handling PFAS.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
PFAS Initiative

About PFAS ▾ Results ▾ What We're Doing ▾ What You Can Do ▾ News & Updates ▾ Contact

DOING OUR PART FOR PFAS

Across the nation, communities and public entities are struggling with how to best address the issue PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in our environment.

Learn more about what Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is doing to address PFAS in wastewater and beneficial biosolids and the role individuals and businesses have in helping reduce PFAS use and contamination.

Key Message Mapping

Question: Can the District remove PFAS from wastewater?	
Key Message #1	Key Message #2
There is currently no cost-effective means to remove PFAS from any water, including wastewater.	PFAS are complex, manmade compounds that are difficult to break down.
Supporting Fact 1-1	Supporting Fact 2-1
Technological innovations have been created to separate PFAS from groundwater and drinking water, but this technology results in a PFAS-full waste that must also be managed and disposed of.	PFAS are often called "forever chemicals."
Supporting Fact 1-2	Supporting Fact 2-2
PFAS destruction technology is still in its infancy and comes with high energy and infrastructure costs.	Certain PFAS can bioaccumulate and have not been found to be broken down in the environment naturally.
Supporting Fact 1-3	Supporting Fact 2-3
The best way to eliminate PFAS from all water is to keep it from getting there in the first place. This is	PFAS has one of the strongest chemical bonds.

Read more . . .

MassDEP Initiates Biosolids Master Planning Effort

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is moving ahead with a statewide study and master planning for wastewater residuals generated in-state. On December 8th, the MassDEP published a Request for Quotes through an existing consulting services contract for "PFAS and Residuals Technology and Management Study, Part 1". Quotes on the work are due January 5th and MassDEP intends to complete Part 1 of the PFAS and Residuals study by June 30th. The estimated cost for Part 1 -- \$250,000 -- is being paid with funds from MassDEP's Capital Investment Plan. A copy of the RFQ can be found [here](#).

Moving On – Northern Tilth’s Leigh Dorsey Leaving To Pursue Science Writing



NEBRAMail was sad and excited to learn that Leigh Dorsey, a Senior Associate with Northern Tilth (Belfast, Maine), is leaving the company to pursue a graduate degree in science writing. Leigh has been an active member on numerous NEBRA committees over the years. Her most significant contribution to NEBRA has been her work on the BEAM Team and updating the Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model (BEAM) spreadsheet. Recently, she had been helping the Carbon & Nutrient Trading Committee with a report to the membership, writing that “I’ve learned quite a bit from being on the committee and think that passing on that knowledge to the NEBRA membership in a clear, concise manner will be impactful.” We are sad to lose Leigh but excited to have someone with in-depth knowledge of the value of biosolids possibly writing about it for a much larger audience!

Aries Clean Technologies' Linden, NJ Biosolids Gasification Facility Gets Back on Track

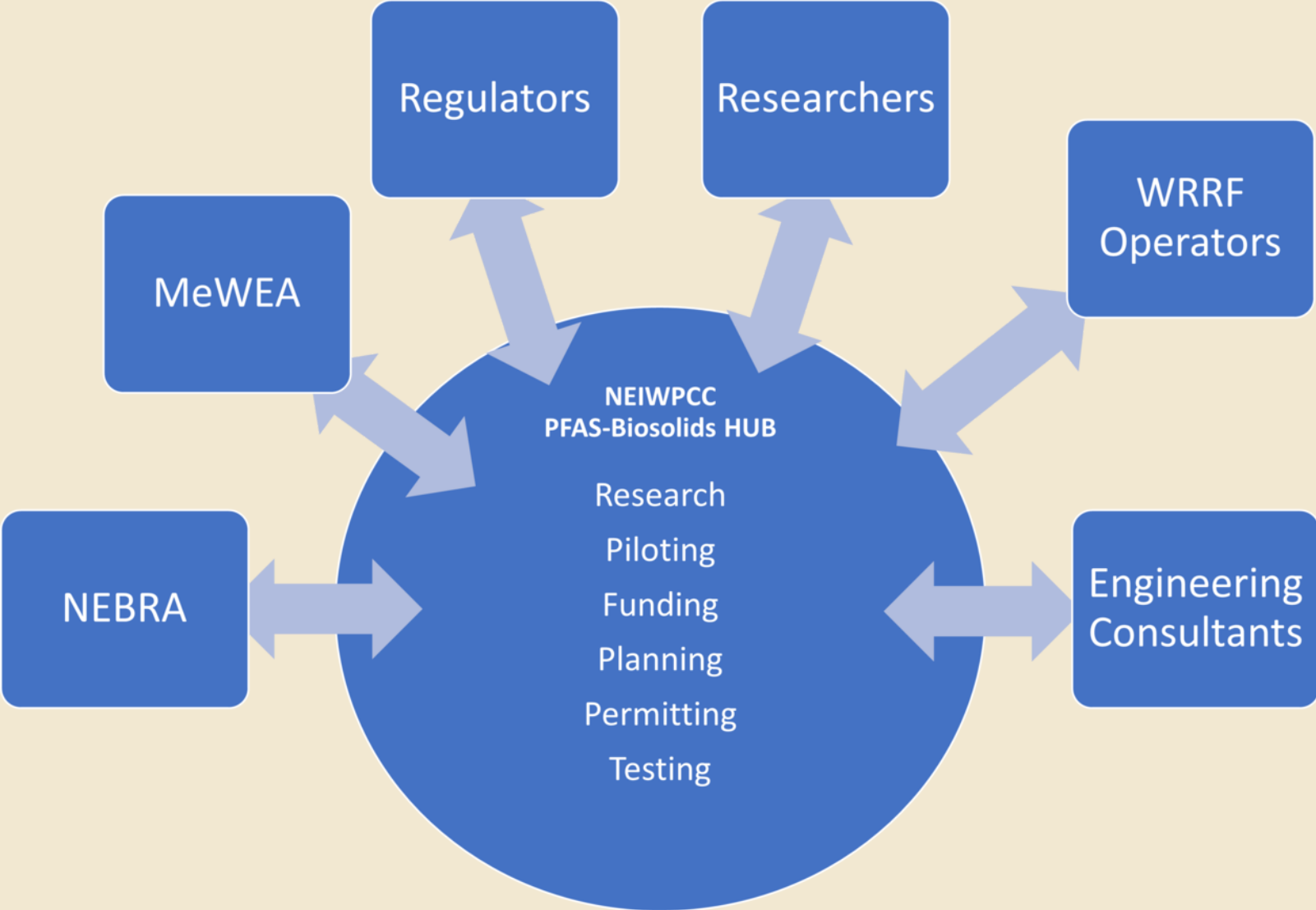
NEBRA member Aries Clean Technologies (Franklin, TN) has gotten its biosolids gasification facility in Linden, New Jersey, back on track. Aries presented its gasification process for biosolids at a NEBRA [Lunch & Learn](#) a couple of years ago, as the Linden project was getting underway. As of late November, the gasification plant had reached mechanical completion for a major retrofit to improve operational efficiency. Aries has begun commissioning the retrofitted facility and hopes to reach commercial operations in late January. *NEBRAMail* will be following the developments.

MABA – Call for Abstracts for Annual Summer Symposium

The Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association will be hosting its annual Summer Symposium, scheduled for July 9th through 11th in Greater Richmond, Virginia. The locale has yet to be determined but MABA likes to get an early start on the program. The 2024 Symposium will focus on innovation and current best practices. There is a long list of topics of interest, covering all aspects of solids handling and biosolids management, including regulation. Abstracts shall be no longer than 1,000 words. One additional page permitted with tables and/or graphics. Send your presentation idea to Mary Firestone at mfirestone@mabiosolids.org, no later than Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Consider presenting at the MABA Symposium in 2024!

BioHub Updates

In direct response to the situation in Maine, and its impact on the Northeast, NEIWPC brought together a broad coalition of experts around the concept of a [BioHub](#) for PFAS in Biosolids. It started out as a way to help get innovative technologies developed, piloted and “certified” to destroy PFAS in biosolids. However, the private sector seems to be stepping up on that front. As a result, the BioHub has pivoted to serve as a virtual hub or clearinghouse of information for regulators and wastewater utilities related to anything PFAS in biosolids. The intent is still to facilitate and fast track innovative technical solutions. Already, NEIWPC has compiled and shared resources on PFAS research, pilot projects, funding, planning efforts, and permitting of PFAS treatment processes for wastewater sludges. NEIWPC hosted another BioHub meeting on December 8th which included several NEBRA utility members contributing to the discussions.



CHECK IT OUT!!

[Firefighters rescue new Christmas toy from sewer drain in Cinco Ranch - YouTube](#)

This is why we love firefighters but they really should have let wastewater professionals handle this one!!

[Ten Engineer-Selected STEM Toys to Give as Gifts in 2023 | Innovation | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

More gift ideas: [The Ten Best Science Books of 2023 | Science | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

[5 New Year's resolutions to reduce your carbon footprint : Life Kit : NPR](#)

[We've updated the Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary with 690 New Words | Merriam-Webster](#)

Ugh -- includes "forever chemical". Check out other new words in the Climate and Environment category.

[This is one of the ways .. All of lives.. Intertwine..\(youtube.com\)](#)

Blue Man Group reminds us of our common humanity. . . wait for it!!



Upcoming Events

December 27: NEBRA Research Committee, Maine CDC to present research on PFAS uptake into plants

January 12: North East Digestion Roundtable on the latest enhancements for Anaerobic digestion

January 16: Maine Water Environment Association's legislative breakfast

January 17: NEBRA Research Committee, New Hampshire DES to present research on PFAS in biosolids/soils

January 21 - 24: New England Water Environment Association 2024 Conference & Exhibit in Boston.

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

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