



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

December 28, 2021

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Maine Continues to Deal With Legacy PFAS Pollution Linked to Biosolids and Residuals

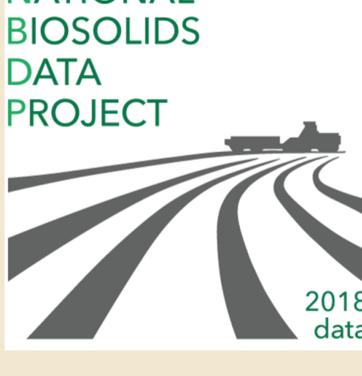
On November 23rd, the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) issued a Do Not Eat advisory for deer harvested in the area **in and around the central Maine town of Fairfield**. The advisory was due to the discovery of relatively high levels (~40 ng/g or parts per billion (ppb) in 5 of the 8 deer tested) of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), one of the most common of the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFOS was measured in the meat and liver of deer that had foraged in the area of farm fields where soil and surface water is known to have high PFOS levels. Three of the deer tested from the same area had lower PFOS levels. According to the press release, there had been previous recommendations for reduced consumption of deer harvested in the area, but after consulting with the Maine CDC, the DIFW made it a Do Not Eat Advisory “out of an abundance of caution.”

[Read more...](#)

EPA to Host Training Sessions for Annual Electronic Biosolids Reporting

The 2021 Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Reports are due by **February 22, 2022**, this year. These reports are required to be submitted electronically in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule (40 CFR Part 127). These annual reports, NETBIO, are available to the public as part of the EPA’s Central Data Exchange (CDX). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting two online training sessions to assist treatment facility operators with generators the electronic reporting system.

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Update on National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use & Disposal Survey

The National Biosolids Data Project (NBDP) continues compiling data from every state and territory in the Union. As the work is done, key information about each state is published on a state page at the **NBDP website**. “It’s fascinating, and quite a privilege for me, to become familiar with what’s happening with biosolids in each state,” says Ned Beecher, project lead. “It’s astounding how much variation there is, from Georgia’s long reliance on landfill disposal (but that’s changing – see the Georgia report) to Connecticut’s nearly 100% reliance on incineration (report coming soon), to the high levels of biosolids recycling to soils in Florida, the Midwest, California, and the Northwest.

[Read more...](#)



University of Arizona Leading Study on PFAS and Land Application

Dr. Ian Pepper, Director of The Water & Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center at the University of Arizona, is spearheading a collaborative national study on the fate and transport of PFAS following long-term land application of biosolids. The project scales up Dr. Pepper’s local research on behalf of Pima County, Arizona, following a land application ban there in late 2019 (see **NEBRAMail** article from **12/14/2020**). This new study is titled “Evaluation of Fate and Transport of PFAS Following Long-Term Land Application of Biosolids: A Collaborative National Study.” The research questions are:

1. Does land application of biosolids result in significantly increased human exposure to PFAS?
2. Will it lead to a national ban on land application?

[Read more...](#)



MABA to Host Webinar on COP26 and Biosolids

The Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) is hosting a webinar on January 18th from Noon to 1:30 pm EST following on the 26th “Conference of the Parties” – COP26, the 2021 United Nations climate change conference. **Biosolids and COP26: Responding to Climate Change** will feature NEBRA’s Carbon Trading Committee Chair Bill Brower with Brown & Caldwell and a presentation about updating of the Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model (BEAM).

[Read more...](#)

En Bref -- In Brief

Halifax Water Issues RFQ for Biosolids Processing Facility Improvements

NEBRA member Halifax Water is the utility providing municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater services to the residents of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The utility operates several wastewater treatment facilities that generate residual solids (biosolids), which are handled and processed at the local biosolids processing facility (BPF) located in the Aerotech Business Park, near the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. The existing BPF is approaching its operating capacity. With anticipated population growth in the serviced areas, and a drive for higher levels of treatment at the WWTFs, there is an ever-increasing quantity of biosolids that will need to be processed and handled by the existing BPF. Halifax Water is in the process of developing a program to procure services, equipment, and material for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a new BPF capable of handling and processing all residual solids from the above facilities out to 2050 and beyond. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been released to the Nova Scotia Provincial procurement web-portal to solicit responses from interested parties and technology providers. The RFQ process will be followed by an invited Request for Proposal process, leading to a facility development and long-term operating agreement. For further information, contact: Heather Colpitts, Procurement Officer for Halifax Water (procurement@halifaxwater.ca). Reference: RFQ #01.2021

Johns Hopkins University Wants Your Sludge

Researchers at Johns Hopkins have secured one of the four grants awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study pollutants in biosolids. Johns Hopkins University has \$1.9 million for its three-year project to develop a “flexible framework for the prioritization of biosolids-associated organic contaminants” and will also be examining the occurrence, fate, and transport of contaminants after land application of biosolids to model exposures/risks and identify priority pollutants to address with future rulemaking. NEBRA collaborator Greg Kester of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) will be serving in an advisory role, working with the Johns Hopkins researchers, and he is asking for water resource recovery facilities to send biosolids samples for analysis by the researchers. Greg is asking for as many facilities as possible to provide small samples of their biosolids (100 – 500 grams). All sources will be kept anonymous so it could be a great way to find out if you have any contaminants of concern ending up in your solids. For more information, please email **Greg Kester** or Principal Investigator **Dr. Carsten Prasse**.

NEBRA to Highlight More Innovative Technologies in 2022 Lunch & Learn Webinars

NEBRA’s monthly Lunch & Learn webinar series is a great way to learn something new in an informal setting where you can engage with the presenters. In 2020, NEBRA members learned about the potential for supercritical water oxidation to remove contaminants from biosolids and a mechanical vapor recompression system for producing Class A biosolids and removing nutrients. In 2021, NEBRA members learned about gasification and pyrolysis for biosolids as well as urine diversion and recycling. The 2022 lineup is still coming together but NEBRA members will get to Lunch & Learn about new technologies like HyBrTec, a process to convert **biosolids to hydrogen, and foam fractionation**, a process to remove PFAS from wastewater before it gets into the solids stream. There will also be sessions on the **latest research from the Water Research Foundation** being led by NEBRA members. Check the **events** listing for the last Fridays of the month!

Free COVID Samplers for Small Wastewater Utilities! Become part of the Monitoring Network!

The Water Environment Federation (WEF), with funding through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is inviting **small** utilities to apply to receive an automatic wastewater sampler and technical assistance to participate in wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) or disease surveillance. As previously reported in **NEBRAMail (COVID WBE Developments — NEBRA (nebiosolids.org))**, WBE has emerged as a tool for understanding COVID-19 infection trends. **Learn more here**, see the **program invitation** for more information and instructions on how to submit an application and **apply online** by January 31, 2022.

EPA Cybersecurity Assessments and Technical Assistance

Interested water and wastewater utilities can sign up for **free**, confidential cybersecurity assessments and technical assistance services provided virtually - **Register here**

NEBRA Member Underwood Engineering is hiring! Underwood, a New England regional leader in water, wastewater, and stormwater engineering, is looking for experienced Project Engineers and Senior Project Engineers for water and wastewater projects in New Hampshire and Maine.

For this and other job opportunities, go to **Job Opportunities — NEBRA (nebiosolids.org)**.

CHECK IT OUT!!

The Springfield (Missouri) Environmental Services Division has its very own **Sewer Santa!**

Uganda has its very own **Sewage Queen!** And she is bringing biogas to homes.

Poo Power! Barcelona buses to run on biomethane made from sewage sludge.

Living Ink Made From E.Coli Could One Day Be Used in Cancer Treatments or Self-Healing Buildings

Researchers **Potty Trained Young Cows**, a Promising Measure to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

Electronic nose on a drone sniffs out wastewater treatment plant stink -- ScienceDaily

North East Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) uses **social media to entertain and educate**. Follow them on **Twitter!**



Upcoming Events

- January 12: Biosolids 101** webinar (Northwest Biosolids Association)
- January 12 or 26: EPA training** for 2021 Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Reports (electronic reports due by **February 22**)
- January 18: Biosolids and COP26**: Responding to Climate Change (Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association)
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- January 23 - 26: New England Water Environment Association’s Annual Conference & Exhibit** (Boston, MA)
- January 24 - 27: Compost 2022** (U.S. Composting Council)
- January 28: NEBRA Lunch & Learn** about HyBrTec® Biosolid-to-Hydrogen process
- February 1: Maine Water Utilities Association’s 96th annual conference and tradeshow** (Augusta, ME).

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

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