



June 2022

## EPA's Liz Resek Retires from Biosolids Program

Liz Resek, credited by many with reinvigorating the federal Biosolids Program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently announced her retirement effective May 31st. Ms. Resek served as the Biosolids Lead for EPA since 2017 after a long career in numerous other leadership roles at EPA Headquarters. The North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) and all the biosolids stakeholders are better off for Resek's leadership and the attention returned to biosolids issues by EPA during her tenure. In her five years at the helm, Ms. Resek was able to increase funding and employees for EPA's biosolids program, facilitate major new grants to research unregulated contaminants in biosolids (more than \$6 million), and re-establish regular meetings with state co-regulators, biosolids associations and other stakeholders. She also had to address negative press and repercussions from the EPA Office of Inspector General's review of EPA's biosolids regulatory program.

[Read more...](#)



EPA's Liz Resek (far right) meeting with several NEBRA Board members in March 2018 as part of a tour of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District's anaerobic digestion facility.

## Food Fight in Boston?

The May 27th article "Mayor Wu Announces New Citywide Composting Program" by Boston Globe reporter Dharna Noor started out touting the Mayor's Green New Deal, but ended up being yet another bash on biosolids as The Globe focused on concerns by the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) over where some of the food wastes may have to be diverted to.

The article failed to highlight the state's ambitious goals for solid waste which includes major diversion of food and other organic wastes from landfill to composting and anaerobic digestion. Most of Boston's residential food wastes will be composted by two companies: Garbage to Garden (Portland, ME) and Save That Stuff (Boston/West Bridgewater). The reporter focused on CLF's misguided concerns about mixing food wastes with wastewater solids to generate biogas which the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD) uses to power its water resource recovery facility (WRRF), completely off the electric grid.

[Read more](#)

## EPA Publishes Curated List of Pollutants in Biosolids

### Now Up to 726

Staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's various offices teamed up on an article titled "Curation of a List of Chemicals in Biosolids from EPA National Sewage Sludge Surveys & Biennial Review Reports" published in Nature on April 19, 2022. The lead author, Tess Richman, is from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) and has been working in EPA's Biosolids Program for a while now. She was joined by Elyssa Arnold, formerly with the EPA Office of Water and now with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Pest Management, and Antony J. Williams from EPA's Office of Research & Development in Triangle Park, North Carolina.

[Read more](#)

## EPA Takes More Actions Related To PFAS

Here are a couple noteworthy actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

- The agency recently **announced** that it was adding five PFAS to its Regional Screening and Removal Management Levels, what EPA uses to determine whether further action is needed to protect human health. EPA has set soil and groundwater protection screening levels for HFPO-DA (also known as GenX), PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, and PFHxS. See [Regional Screening Levels \(RSLs\) - What's New | US EPA](#).
- EPA has extended its public comment period for its proposed Aquatic Life Criteria for PFOA and PFOS to **July 2nd**. See Table 1 below for a summary and May 3rd Federal Register Notice: [2022-09441.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#).

[Read more...](#)

TABLE 1—DRAFT RECOMMENDED FRESHWATER AQUATIC LIFE WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Criteria component	Acute water column (CMC) <sup>1</sup>	Chronic water column (CCC) <sup>2</sup>	Invertebrate whole-body (mg/kg ww) <sup>3</sup>	Fish whole-body (mg/kg ww)	Fish muscle (mg/kg ww)
PFOA Magnitude	49 mg/L	0.094 mg/L	1.11	6.10	0.125
PFOS Magnitude	3.0 mg/L	0.0084 mg/L	0.937	6.75	2.91
Duration	1-hour average	4-day average	Instantaneous <sup>4</sup>		
Frequency	Not to be exceeded more than once in three years, on average.	Not to be exceeded more than once in three years, on average.	Not to be exceeded more than once in ten years, on average.		

<sup>1</sup> Criterion Maximum Concentration.

<sup>2</sup> Criterion Continuous Concentration.

<sup>3</sup> Wet Weight.

<sup>4</sup> Tissue data provide instantaneous point measurements that reflect integrative accumulation of PFOA or PFOS over time and space in aquatic life population(s) at a given site.

## En Bref -- In Brief

### 2022 Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Planning for NEBRA's joint conference with the New England Water Environment Association (NEWWEA) is in full swing. The event will be held in-person, **November 1st and 2nd**, at the Residence Inn and Venue at Portsmouth Place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There will be great networking events, a local tour, and NEBRA's annual membership meeting. NEBRA plans to celebrate its 25th anniversary in New Hampshire, where it all started. NEBRA/NEWWEA are now accepting abstracts for their joint Northeast Residuals and Biosolids Conference on the following topics:

- Supply Chain and Inflation Residuals Management Impacts
- PFAS Research and Impacts to Residuals programs
- Residuals Master Planning and Co-digestion
- Odor and Impacts on End Use
- Emerging trends and technologies for sludge handling and management

The deadline to submit an abstract is **June 30**. Go to [Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference - NEWWEA - New England Water Environment Association](#) for more information and the link to submit an abstract.

### USDA Programs Garner Biosolids Community Responses

It's not only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules that can impact the management of biosolids and residuals. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) could have a huge impact on beneficial recycling programs going forward. Two items of note:

- On May 16th, the Water Environment Federation commented on the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services's request to "Identify Anti-Competitive Market Structures and Practices in Fertilizer, Seed and Agricultural Inputs". USDA has also put out grants: [USDA Announces Plans for \\$250 Million Investment to Support Innovative American-made Fertilizer to give US Farmers more choices in the Marketplace | USDA](#). The WEF letter explains why biosolids check all the boxes including economic value for farmers, environmental benefits, and customer satisfaction. For a copy of the letter, click [here](#).
- NEBRA and others are planning comments – but all interested parties should comment on the Natural Resources Conservation Service proposed [revisions](#) to its conservation practices. The proposed revisions include Code 336 for Soil Carbon Amendments, previously Code 808 (see [NEBRA comments](#) from earlier this year). The new Code allows for biosolids only in the form of biochar. The deadline to comment is **June 16th!**

### Helpful PFAS Communication Materials for NEBRA Members

NEBRA has been creating and compiling various documents to help its members communicate with various stakeholders around PFAS. In addition to template letters, InfoGraphics, and [bill stuffers](#), there are resources for the public and elected officials from the North East Biosolids Improvement Project, the Green Mountain Water Environment Association, and other NEBRA partners. NEBRA can help you customize the materials, which you can find on the Member-Only [webpage](#). If you have something that works for you, please share ([info@nebiosolids.org](mailto:info@nebiosolids.org))! Now is the time to start the conversation!

### Members in the News

**Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's David Duest** is featured in a *Harvard Magazine* [article](#) titled "Parklands and Wastewater" about the Deer Island Treatment Facility as a destination.

**Chittenden Solid Waste District** (Vermont) [ranks](#) among the top waste diversion and recycling programs in the United States. Keep up the great work Chittenden!

**Greater Lawrence Sanitary District** is the subject of an article in *Treatment Plant Operator* titled "[Net Zero Energy? Here's a Plant That Took It Even Further](#)"

### NEBRA to Participate in Screening Event for Flush: The Documentary

NEBRA Executive Director Janine Burke-Wells (NEBRA Member Christine Adams, of Resource Management, Inc., will participate in a panel discussion following a local screening of the movie [Flush: The Documentary](#). Other panelists will be Jamina Shupack, from the Rich Earth Institute, and Shawn Shafner, founder of The POOP Project ([The POOP Project](#)). The event will be held from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, June 18th, at Epsilon Spires in Brattleboro, Vermont. For more information and tickets, go to: "[Flush: The Documentary](#)" [Film Screening & Expert Panel Discussion \(brownpapertickets.com\)](#).

## CHECK IT OUT!!

From our partners at the New England Water Environment Association, featuring numerous NEBRA members: [Invest in Water - YouTube](#).

Excellent [Media and Public Relations Guide](#) from the Maine Water Utilities Association

Yet another movie about PFAS: [No Defense - Movies on Google Play](#)

Turning food "waste" into something else in Canada: [How upcycling turns industrial food leftovers into certified tasty meals | CBC News](#)

Another great use of "waste" materials: [New sustainable, cheap, and renewable biocement is made from sludge and urine \(zmescience.com\)](#)

Love the history in poop! [What 4,500-Year-Old Poop Teaches Us About the People Who Built Stonehenge | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

Soothing music from inside the "Super Sewer", the Thames Tideway Tunnel: [LIVE: MUSICAL PERFORMANCE IN THE SUPER SEWER - YouTube](#)



## Upcoming Events

**June 18:** Screening and Panel Discussion on [Flush: The Documentary](#) (Brattleboro, Vermont)

**June 24:** Lunch & Learn about Thermal Hydrolysis

**July 20-21:** Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association's Summer Technical [Symposium](#)

**September 9:** Rhode Island Clean Water Association's Annual Exhibit & Luncheon

**September 12:** Maine Water Environment Association's Fall Conference

**September 18-21:** Canadian Residuals & Biosolids [Conference](#) (Ontario)

**September 25-27:** North West Biosolids Association's Biofest 2022 (Blaine, WA) - [registration](#) is open now!

For a complete listing of Events, go to [www.nebiosolids.org/events](http://www.nebiosolids.org/events)

Thanks to our website sponsors!!





[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

P. O. Box 207 | Hope, RI 02831 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.