



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

March 23, 2023

Biosolids Disposal Disrupted in Maine

In late February, the combined impacts from two new laws passed by the Maine State legislature in 2022 finally hit home. [LD1911](#) was the bill that banned the “sale or distribution and use” of biosolids-based products on land and [LD1639](#) prohibited the import of oversized bulky wastes (OBW) from out of state. LD1911 became effective in August 2022 but LD1639 did not become effective until February 8th of this year. The staggering of the effective dates also staggered the impacts from the combination of these two pieces of legislation. Despite behind the scenes efforts to avert the impacts on biosolids disposal, an unsafe situation at the landfill caused a pause in disposal of Maine’s biosolids.

With more biosolids having to go to landfill and less dry, bulky waste coming into the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) located in Old Town, the landfill operator, Casella Resource Solutions, quickly ran out of materials needed to mix with wet wastes like biosolids to ensure the safety and stability of the landfill. According to industry experts, disposing of wet wastes in landfill generally requires 4 parts dry wastes to 1 part wet waste (see discussions from NEBRA news, 9/30/22: [Landfill Capacity in the NE — NEBRA \(nebiosolids.org\)](#)). The situation has stabilized for now but here’s how it came to be. . .



Photo Credit: WGME TV

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Quebec Restricts Imports of U.S. Biosolids

On February 22nd, the Quebec government published its intent to amend its regulations to ban use of U.S. biosolids for use in direct agricultural application and has implemented a temporary moratorium to do just that. Benoit Charette, Ministère de l’Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), signed the [notice](#) in the Gazette Officielle du Quebec proposing to amend the Environmental Quality Act relating to agricultural operations. Specifically, MELCCFP proposes to amend the Agricultural Operations Regulation (chapter Q-2, r. 26) by inserting the following after Section 29.2:

“The spreading on any parcel of land of sludge from a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant or any other wastewater treatment or collection system, as well as de-inking sludge from pulp and paper mills, where the sludge originates from outside Canada, or any product containing such sludge, is prohibited.”

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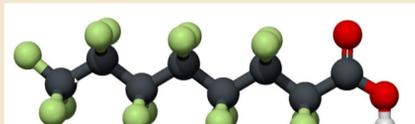


Photo Credit: Society of Environmental Journalists

EPA Updates: SAB Biosolids Panel Schedules Meetings, Drinking Water Limits for PFAS Proposed

On March 14th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took two significant actions with the potential to significantly impact biosolids management. On that date, EPA published a [Federal Register](#) announcing the meeting schedule for the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Biosolids Panel. EPA also announced its proposed draft Maximum Contaminant Levels for several per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. Both actions have been expected for a while now. The EPA began the process of establishing the SAB back in September of 2021 with a call for experts to serve on the panel. EPA’s PFAS Strategic Roadmap from October 2021 announced its intent to develop MCLs on a fast-track.

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CRROPS Organizes Congressional Briefing on PFAS Receivers Concerns

The Coalition of Recyclers of Residual Organics by Practitioners of Sustainability (CRROPS) was created in early 2022 to lobby for the concerns of receivers of PFAS including water and wastewater utilities and landfills and especially concerns for how PFAS is impacting these public utilities and beneficial recycling programs. On February 9th, CRROPS teamed up with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the American Water Works Association, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Orange County Water District, Purdue University, and the Water Environment Federation, for an important congressional PFAS briefing to examine the implications of PFAS policymaking. The briefing was held in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing room in Washington D.C.

[Read more . . .](#)

NEIWPCC Advances BioHub Concept for Maine

NEIWPCC is leading a multi-stakeholder effort, involving NEBRA, the Maine Water Environment Association, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and others, that proposes to create a “BioHub.” The vision is for a center for researching and vetting emerging technologies for biosolids management and, especially, studying the potential for destroying per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The BioHub would also serve as a repository for research and innovation on biosolids and PFAS.

[Read more . . .](#)

En Bref -- In Brief

Woonsocket Incinerator Temporarily Stops Accepting Liquid Sludges

On March 1st, shortly after a [Twitter post](#) showing yet another bypass of the treatment system at its regional water resource recovery facility (WRRF), the City of Woonsocket stopped accepting liquid sludge as of 5 pm that day. Synagro operates the sewage sludge incinerator that is co-located with the WRRF under an agreement with the City. Synagro has since resumed taking liquid sludges but on a more limited basis. The RI Attorney General has [stepped in](#) to ensure necessary facility upgrades are made and this doesn’t continue to happen. Woonsocket is pondering its future as the host of a critical biosolids processing facility in the region (see Boston Globe [article](#) for more information).

Hydrothermal Carbonization is the Topic for this Month’s Lunch & Learn

At this month’s Lunch & Learn, you will hear from one of the participants in the 2022 “Shark Tank” event held at the Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference: C-Green’s OxyPower HTC™. Attendees will get an overview of C-Green’s OxyPower HTC™ technology for managing biosolids in the wastewater treatment industry. OxyPower HTC™ is a technology that provides a significant volume reduction by using a unique patented process of hydrothermal carbonization (HTC) and wet oxidation to convert biosolids waste into a dry, sterile hydrochar. In addition to an overview of the process, C-Green’s partner, [Next Rung Technologies](#), will provide an update regarding current installations, as well as additional potential applications of the technology that are currently under review, such as pulp and paper [sludges](#).

UConn Researchers Need Your Help

NEBRA collaborators from the University of Connecticut’s Department of Engineering are looking for some assistance. In two separate projects, UConn is looking to speak with wastewater operators and especially those using **anaerobic digestion**. Professors [Jeff McCutcheon](#) and [Ed Wazer](#) need about 15 minutes of your time to complete a requirement for their National Science Foundation grant to upgrade biogas utilization. They are interested in speaking with a range of folks, including AD operators (municipal and commercial), consultants that make recommendations, design, and build the biogas systems, municipalities and businesses that are involved in the decision-making process of choosing biogas utilization methods.

In a separate project, Professor [Baikun Li](#) and her research assistants are looking to conduct interviews with as many wastewater treatment facility operators as possible regarding their knowledge and usage of **sensors in wastewater treatment**, especially for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The sensor of interest is a little more involved but the researchers will work with your schedule if you are interested in helping. Surveys and interviews can be done virtually.

Hartford’s Metropolitan District Issues RFI for Biosolids

The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut, has published a Request for Information (RFI) as to “available and economically viable technologies that address the disposal of multiple solid waste streams” including specifically biosolids. The [announcement](#) has instructions for obtaining a copy of the RFI. Questions about the RFI can be directed to Lisa Madison (lmadison@themdc.com). The deadline for questions is March 24th by 4 pm EST and the deadline to submit a response/proposal is **April 21st by 2 pm EST**. [The Metropolitan District | CT Water Utility Services \(themdc.org\)](#) is a new NEBRA member and this is pretty forward-thinking on their part!

CHECK IT OUT!!

DC Water’s Bloom featured on the [Permaculture](#) Podcast: [Bloom & DC Water - Municipal Recycling at Scale - YouTube](#).

[N.H. inventor gets funding on 'Shark Tank'](#) (concordmonitor.com) for product that deals with fats, oils, and grease.

[MIT vs. poop | MIT Technology Review](#) -- great story, great characters!

[Until now, no one has mapped global fertilizer emissions](#) (anthropocenemagazine.org)

[Climate TRACE](#) -- cool, interactive map of greenhouse gas emissions

[What's is most climate-friendly way to get your groceries?](#) (anthropocenemagazine.org)

[A New Satellite Tool Shows You How the Planet’s Landscape Changes Day by Day](#) | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine



Upcoming Events

March 24: Lunch & Learn about [Hydrothermal Carbonization](#)

April 5-6: Maine North Country [Convention](#)

April 14: [North East Digestion Roundtable](#) on Food Waste Digestion Trends in NE

April 24 - 29: [Water Week](#), including [Congressional Briefing](#) in DC (contact NEBRA for talking points!)

May 7-13: International [Compost Awareness Week](#)

May 16-19: WEF [Residuals & Biosolids Conference](#) in Charlotte, NC

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

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