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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

May 24, 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

EPA is hosting a 2-part webinar series on biosolids regulations and management methods on **May 27th**.

NEBRA Lunch & Learn about biosolids gasification with Ecoremedy on **May 28th**.

U.S. Composting Council webinar, Compost Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change on **June 16th**.

A Conversation About Biosolids With Bill Toffey, NEBRA Lunch & Learn on **June 25th** at Noon ET.

Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association's Summer Technical Symposium, **July 13th through the 29th**, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12 to 1:30 pm.

*FOR MORE EVENTS, go to NEBRA's Events Page.*

## New from EPA Biosolids Program:

Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey (TNSSS): Summary Statistics and Estimates of 95th Percentiles for 84 Additional Analytes

Report on the Elemental Analyses of Samples from the Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey

**Attention Consultants and Contractors -- Opportunity in Halifax!**

***Request for Expressions of Interest*** **in providing services, equipment, and material for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a new Biosolids Processing Facility. See** tender details**.**

**Deadline is June 11th.**

## CHECK IT OUT:

The British Broadcasting Company aims a new documentary, The Secret Science of Sewers

Major news reporters drink recycled Los Angeles water as part of climate change report.

Meet water recycling advocate Shreya Ramachandran.

NEBRA Member Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District (NH) produced a video that was presented at the New Hampshire Drinking Water Festival.

Oh the irony – plastic straw bans lead to use of paper straws with PFAS!

Toilet paper orientation has a Wikipedia paper?!

See this outlook for global biosolids markets.

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## Thank You!

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Calendar

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## Looking for Content

NEBRA is always looking for good content – like **stories for NEBRAMail and topics for webinars**. We welcome articles from and presentations by members. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the NEBRA office.

## Michigan Issues Interim Strategy for Land Application

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has released its "Interim Strategy for Land Application of Biosolids Containing PFAS," published in late March, to formalize EGLE's guidance for recycling biosolids in light of concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The strategy has been expected for a while now following the work EGLE put into studying the issue of PFAS in land applied biosolids. EGLE reports issued to date include: "Initiatives to Evaluate the Presence of PFAS in Municipal Wastewater and Associated Residuals (Sludge/Biosolids) in Michigan" and "Evaluation of PFAS in Influent, Effluent, and Residuals of Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in Michigan".

The interim strategy will be effective for land application occurring after July 1st but EGLE is recommending that biosolids producers consider following the guidelines starting this Spring. Read more…

## UMaine Kicks Off Project to Find Best Solution to PFAS-Contaminated Biosolids

On May 10th, the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) participated in the kick-off meeting for the University of Maine (UMaine)'s George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions Project titled "Integrated assessment of alternative management strategies for PFAS-contaminated wastewater residuals". The project received funding from the U.S. Geological Survey. In her introductory email to the stakeholders, Principle Investigator Dianne Kopec said: "PFAS-contaminated wastewater residuals pose a wicked, complex problem." The grant proposal was inspired when the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) asked for UMaine's help evaluating management alternatives for PFAS-contaminated residuals. More…

## NEBRA Intern to Research Plant-Available Phosphorus from Biosolids

The North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA) put out a call to biosolids researchers at universities in the region in late April seeking a student to work remotely this summer on an important research project. The intern will conduct an assessment of changes in total phosphorus and plant-available phosphorus on agricultural fields with good records on the amounts and phosphorus content of soil amendments applied over at least ten years. The project will involve working with farmers and biosolids producers to determine phosphorus inputs over a specific set of years and examining historical soil tests to provide a comparison of before-and-after phosphorus levels. More…

## Aries Clean Technologies Proposing Biosolids Gasification Facility in Mass.

Aries Clean Technologies is proposing a biosolids gasification facility in Taunton, Massachusetts. The project is currently would be located at the City's former landfill site on East Brittannia Street and could become a significant – and much needed -- new outlet for biosolids in Massachusetts. The project is currently undergoing environmental and local planning reviews. The Taunton City Council approved a Host Community Agreement back in February. Read more…

## In Brief / en bref...

### NEWEA Biosolids Management Award – Applications due June 1st

Consider nominating a facility, consulting firm, special project or a biosolids professional making significant contributions to the field of biosolids technology and management practices. The only criteria for the award is that the nominee adhere to science-based processes and practices, public education and outreach, regulatory and policy matters, energy consumption, cross media impact management, information sharing with peers, commitment to sustainability, and local ecosystems. For more information and to submit a nomination online, go to the New England Water Environment Association's website. Past recipients include NEBRA members Casella Organics, the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, and Merrimack, New Hampshire. Past individual award winners include Shelagh Connelly (Resource Management, Inc.), Ned Beecher (former NEBRA Executive Director), and former NEBRA Board members John Donovan and Clayton "Mac" Richardson.

### Buyer of Waste-to-Energy Facility in Hampden, Maine, has Technology for Biosolids

Delta Thermo Energy (DTE) of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, is expected to purchase the shuttered municipal solid waste (MSW) processing facility in Hampden, Maine, in early June. DTE would take over the existing facility and processes as constructed by FiberRight, another Pennsylvania company that ran the plant until being forced to close due to a number of start-up issues. The facility served as outlet for MSW from 115 Maine communities which have had to scramble to find other places for their trash. DTE is hoping to get the facility started again within 9 months of purchase and re-employ most of the former facility employees. DTE has a trademarked technology called Green Waste To Fuel that converts MSW and wastewater solids or sludges into Engineered Pulverized Fuel.

*From our Partners at the Water Environment Federation:*

### Contaminated Sludge to Road Construction Material?

Polluted sludge dredged from Nova Scotia's Boat Harbour could be put in a storage tank or be used as a nontoxic glassy rock-like substance suitable for road construction. The latter is proposed by Nova Waste Solutions, which wants to build a facility nearby to turn a variety of waste into molten slag, which can then be cooled and broken down into material for civil engineering projects. For full story, go to CBS News (Canada).

### EPA Establishes New "Council on PFAS"

In late April, new EPA Administrator Michael Regan announced the establishment of the EPA Council on PFAS to be co-chaired by Deb Szaro, current acting Region I administrator, and new Assistant Administrator Radhika Fox. The Council will be made up of senior EPA career officials and is expected to review and establish best practices for addressing PFAS pollution. According to the press release, EPA will put forth recommendations within 100 days in a document titled PFAS 2021-2025 – Safeguarding America's Waters, Air and Land.

### Environmental Research & Education Foundation Collecting Data on Anaerobic Digesters

The Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) is conducting a study to better understand the amount and type of wastes being managed by anaerobic digestion (AD). EREF is seeking information from stand-alone and on-farm anaerobic digesters as well as those located at water resource recovery facilities. EREF is particularly interested in ADs that accept and co-digest with municipal solid waste. Please help spread the word to AD owners/operators! Here's the survey link. The project lead, Suzie Boxman, PhD, will present the results of this research at a future North East Digestion Roudtable session hosted by NEBRA.

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