

**Subject:** New biosolids regulations & more... NEBRAMail December 2015  
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**From:** NEBRA  
**To:** ned.beecher@nebiosolids.org

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

December 18, 2015

**THE NEBRA OFFICE IS CLOSED**  
**December 21 - January 3.**

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**Best to you for the holidays!**  
**Happy New Year!**

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**CHECK IT OUT...**

**Biosolids risks?** We missed this [excellent literature review](#) when it was published earlier this year. It's by Lynda McCarthy's group at Ryerson Univ. in Ontario, published by the Canadian Water Network.

### NH Finalizes New "Sludge" Regulations

On December 17th, the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES) completed the final major step of the rulemaking process for new rules governing biosolids, short paper fiber, and other "sludges" in New Hampshire. The final proposed Env-Wq 800 rule was reviewed and approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Gretchen Rule presented the final rule on behalf NHDES, and representatives of NEBRA, the City of Nashua, and Resource Management, Inc. provided testimony generally accepting of the new rule, with some concerns.

The final rule looks quite similar to the rule that has been in effect for the past ~5 years... [More...](#)

### Quebec Publishes Updated Regulations & Guidance for Biosolids & Residuals Recycling

In December 2015, the Quebec environment ministry published the 4th edition of its "Guide for Recycling of Fertilizing Residuals" ([French version here](#)). As noted in the preface, this edition comes 31 years after Quebec's first "Guide on Best Practices for Agricultural Use of Municipal Sludges" (September 1984). The new requirements go into effect February 15, 2016. The ministry plans to hold a training on January 20 & 21, 2016, in Quebec City.... [More...](#)



**Co-Digestion & -Composting...** a NERC/NEBRA Webinar Dec. 3rd. You can [watch the recording online](#).

### Chicago biosolids in the media!

There are several recent articles about Chicago's biosolids program, showing excellent outreach:

- biosolids [in urban forestry](#),
- biosolids [for restoring a hazarouse waste site](#), and
- biosolids [and the topsoil business](#).

**Give tours!** NEBRA has long preached this: giving tours of wastewater & biosolids facilities is **THE BEST WAY** to inform stakeholders and the public. Now, Laurie Loftin, a guest author in *TPO*, gives [6 reasons for giving tours](#).

**Good news - Paris climate talks.** [Soil will help](#) save the planet. And [biosolids are part of the solution!!](#)

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### NEBRA Continues Quest To Understand MA Nutrient Regulations

On December 5, 2015, the new Massachusetts [plant nutrient management regulation](#) went into effect for agriculture. The portions of the new regulation pertaining to turf grass had gone into effect in June, 2015. Much of this year, NEBRA staff and members have been trying to learn from the agency responsible for the regulations – the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) – to what extent the regulations apply to biosolids and other organic residuals and to what lands they apply. On December 10th, several NEBRA members held productive discussions with MDAR staff at MDAR's offices in Boston.... [More...](#)

### Vermont DEC Announces Advisory Committee for Biosolids Rules

On December 10th, the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation held a public meeting to present a "[white paper](#)" on the science and experience of biosolids management in Vermont. Eamon Twohig (DEC), one of the authors of the white paper presented a summary of the scientific literature review included in the white paper. Ernie Kelley, manager of the DEC wastewater program, announced that the next step in the Department's slowly-developing rule-making process is to convene an Advisory Committee. About 50 wastewater and biosolids professionals attended the meeting, many providing comments on the white paper and upcoming rulemaking process.

### In Brief / en bref...

- **Formal training is now required of sewage sludge incinerator (SSI) operators**, according to the new SSI air emissions regulations that become effective in March, 2016. WEF and Virginia stakeholders held a thorough [training course](#) earlier this year. Now, NEIWPCC, with support from NEWEA, NEBRA, and others, is developing a training for this region. Stay tuned for announcements this winter and/or [contact the NEBRA office if interested](#).
- **Wheatfield, in western NY, still has the strictest regulation** against biosolid use in the state, and the 2-year debate continues, as [reported in the Niagara Gazette](#).
- **Massachusetts is looking back on its first year of the landfill ban on organics.** MassDEP has done a fine job advancing the program, as [recognized by U. S. EPA's "Food Recovery Challenge."](#) John Fischer and others have compiled initial draft data on food waste diversion from disposal in 2014. [More....](#)
- **Ohio will be updating its biosolids regulations** and is seeking stakeholder input.
- **David Lewis, formerly of U. S. EPA, perennially espouses conspiracy theories about biosolids.** Earlier this year, he received attention from Joseph Mercola, promoter of questionable, alternative health care practices. Why pay attention to just another online negative story about biosolids recycling? After Mercola is seen as a quack by many. But he is influential: his website gets as many hits as the National Institutes of Health and his Facebook page is more popular than WebMD, according to a [2012 Chicago magazine article](#). He writes

- NEFCO
- Casella Organics
- Northern Tilth
- Stantec
- Lystek
- CDM Smith
- Agresource
- Synagro Northeast
- Resource Mgmt, Inc.

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extensively and has invested more than \$1 million in opposition to routine vaccines, helping create the controversy that has erupted in recent years over this long-standing medical practice that has improved the human condition immeasurably. Now, he has promoted David Lewis's old, misplaced, concern about use of biosolids.

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North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

P. O. Box 422 • 26 Greggs Way • Tamworth, NH 03886 USA • 603-323-7654 • [info@nebiosolids.org](mailto:info@nebiosolids.org)

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