

**Subject:** VT rulemaking, in memory..., check it out, & more - NEBRAMail November 2015

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

**November 19, 2015**

**In memory of friend & colleague....**

**Maggie Finn**

NEBRA Project & Admin. Assistant

April 2012 - March 2014

b. 03/05/1962

d. 11/12/2015



Maggie brought new perspective and incredible, infectious energy to NEBRA for two, all-too-short years.

Earlier this month, as the cancer took its toll, she reminisced about her time in the biosolids profession:

**Vermont Biosolids Rulemaking:  
DEC Draft White Paper & Dec. 9 Meeting**

The Residuals Management Section at VT DEC released a draft "White Paper" in October examining the science of biosolids recycling and the history of the practice in the Green Mountain State.

The Department will hold a public forum on **Wednesday, December 9th, 1 - 4 pm** at Leo's Hall, 109 S. Main Street, Waterbury. A biosolids forum was held in this same location in November 2013, at which abundant attendance from water quality professionals from across the state demonstrated to DEC the widespread support of maintaining in-state options, including land application, for biosolids management.

At the December 9th forum, DEC staff will present the White Paper and take comment. DEC requests RSVPs by Dec. 1 to: [allison.lowry@vermont.gov](mailto:allison.lowry@vermont.gov) or 802-490-6188.

**Download the White Paper [here](#).** It includes one of the best reviews of trace chemicals in biosolids currently available.



"Those are great people, humble, and they care a lot about what they do - which is really important."

Maggie died a week ago; her memorial service is this Sunday. To the end, Maggie had an amazing, can-do attitude. "It's all good," she'd say, ever positive. She had her priorities straight, saw the bright side.

Her greatest priority was son Cody Bryan, who is now a Freshman & class president at Kennett High School in Conway, NH, a thoughtful, bright, engaging human and great athlete (hockey, track, climbing). Maggie's last wish (quite practical, which she was) - to continue to provide Cody support through a college fund; [donations welcome](#). I'm in; it would mean a lot to me to see her wish fulfilled. – *Ned Beecher*

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## CHECK IT OUT...

**We're excited to see NEBRA member Jim Jutras & Essex Junction WRRF as the [cover story of the December TPO](#)! Congrats!**

**Congratulations** to Peter Doyle, recent Supervisor at the Barnstable, MA WPCF (a NEBRA Member), for his retirement after 35 years of service. In this [video](#), Peter speaks to what it's all about.

**NEBRA member Brunswick, ME is noted for their public outreach efforts!** See the [WEF article](#) and [online video](#). **Congratulations!**

**A cool new blog worth following:** <http://theresourcecircle.com/> - biosolids news & more from MABA.

**Call for Papers! Canadian**



## 2015 Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Symposium - Success. Fun.

**Thanks to all who participated** - in the Symposium, in the NEBRA Raffle (our biggest ever!), at our REFOR15 sessions, and in the tours.

**Thanks to [BioCycle](#) & [NEWEA](#)** for superb, smooth collaboration. At the REFOR15 Opening Session, U. S. EPA Region 1 Administrator Curt Spaulding said:

"Food recovery is now in the mainstream conversation... and many of you in the room have been working on these issues for years. And more and more, we are seeing organic wastes being managed together. Manures, biosolids, and various types of pre and post-consumer food wastes are now routinely managed in an integrated fashion. That's why it is wonderful to see *BioCycle* teaming up with the Northeast Biosolids and Residuals Association and the New England Water Environment Association for this event, including yesterday's NEBRA conference."

**And special thanks to the Symposium Exhibitors:** Varec Biogas, Statewide Aquastore/Best Tank, Russell Resources, Resource Management Inc., MGD Process Technology, Lystek International, HACH, Casella Organics, Boerger LLC, BDP Industries, and AERISA.

All presentations are available on the [NEBRA Annual Conference page](#).

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## FDA Releases Final Produce Safety Rule

### Use of biosolids = an accepted practice

(thanks to NACWA for this coverage)

The Food and Drug Administration has released a pre-publication version of its final rule on produce safety. Consistent with... comments on the rule [NACWA, NEBRA, & other biosolids groups provided comments], the FDA has maintained provisions from the proposal that allow for the use of biosolids in accordance with EPA's Part 503 regulations. The final rule is available [here](#).

The provisions regarding biosolids/sewage sludge are brief and were unchanged from the proposal. They state: "You may not use human waste for growing covered produce except sewage sludge biosolids used in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR part 503, subpart D, or equivalent regulatory requirements."

In response to comments over concerns regarding the use of biosolids even in compliance with Part 503 regulations, FDA responded with several positive statements regarding the Part 503 regulations:

## Biosolids & Residuals Conference

May 17 - 19, 2016, Edmonton, AB.

Deadline for submittals: **Dec. 11.**

[Details.](#)

**Chicago's biosolids program steps up urban uses;** [excellent media coverage.](#)

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### Welcome New Members:

InSinkEerator (Racine, WI)  
GoGreen Environmental Services  
(Shoreham, NY)  
Michael Keller and Richard Peter  
(both from Town of Chatham,  
MA/Weston & Sampson)



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"In consultation with EPA, FDA has concluded that adherence to 40 CFR part 503 remains an appropriate approach to the use of biosolids for the growing of covered produce. We continue to believe that these requirements are appropriately protective public health."

"FDA, in consultation with EPA, has determined that 40 CFR part 503 remains the most appropriate approach to safe use of sewage sludge biosolids on land involved in the production of covered produce. We point out that the NAS 2002 report (Ref. 177) notes that there is "...no documented evidence to indicate that part 503 has failed to protect public health"; that EPA responded to the NAS review with a 14-point action plan, which it is carrying out; and that under section 405(d)(2)(C) of the CWA, EPA is required to publish a biennial review of part 503 (Ref. 178). FDA concludes that the provisions of CFR part 503 are appropriate standards for protecting public health with respect to the use of sewage sludge biosolids in growing covered produce."

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### In Brief / en bref...

- **Integrated Resource Management (IRM) is in progress at New Bedford, MA,** according to a presentation by Jason Turgeon, EPA Region 1, at *BioCycle* REFOR15 conference last month. See presentation [here](#).
- The Soil Prep biosolids facility in Plymouth, ME [still generating odor complaints...](#)
- The New York town of Marilla has **spent \$155,000+ trying to keep out biosolids,** according to Town Board figures [cited by the Buffalo News](#).
- EPA has released the [TMDL of the Vermont portion of Lake Champlain](#).
- And [Vermont has an implementation plan...](#)
- **Mining metals in wastewater:** Recently, there have been several papers published regarding measured levels of precious metals in wastewater solids. Now, Thames Water in the UK has taken interest. This [London Telegraph article](#) indicates considerable potential value. The unanswered question from this earlier investigation is whether or not recovering the valuable metal(s) is cost-effective. This article cites recovery of gold from incinerator ash in Nagano, Japan. But it is important to note that that location has industries that use gold-enriching the wastewater. Nevertheless, despite our earlier skepticism, evidence is mounting that there may be precious metals in enough concentration to be cost-effectively recovered in at least some locations. The challenge this raises is whether metals recovery can be done as part of processes that lead to beneficial uses of the other resources in biosolids (e.g. nutrients, organic matter), or whether incineration is required to concentrate the metals. Stay tuned...

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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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