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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

December 23, 2013

"In the depth of winter I finally learned that in me was an invincible summer."

- Albert Camus

Help NEBRAMail !

Share your biosolids and residuals news, comments, events, and ideas with your community in *NEBRAMail*. Contact the NEBRA office.

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- **January 26 - 29: 2014 NEWEA Annual Conference**, Boston, MA. [Details](#) and Registration.
- **May 18 - 21: 2014 WFF**

Thanks to NEBRA Members!

As 2013 closes, we, the [Board and staff of NEBRA](#), wish to thank each and every NEBRA member for your involvement and support this year. NEBRA happens only because of you.

Looking ahead, many of you, or the lead contact for your organization, will receive a membership renewal notice in January; we hope you will act on that expeditiously. And we hope all of you will take advantage of your NEBRA membership throughout 2014 - *you get our priority service!*

You and we, all together, are cooperatively promoting the environmentally sound and publicly supported recycling of biosolids and other residuals in New England and eastern Canada (NEBRA's mission).

Thank you!

U. S. Food & Drug Administration Challenges Antimicrobials

On December 16th, the U. S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is asking manufacturers of products containing triclosan (TCS) and triclocarban (TCC) to demonstrate their safety and efficacy or remove them from products. See this [New York Times article](#). TCS and TCC are antimicrobial chemicals found in myriad personal care products such as soaps and toothpastes. They are two of several high-production, high-profile trace chemicals that have been found in biosolids and soils where biosolids are applied. Their presence in biosolids is not considered likely to create human harm (although research continues), but their efficacy in soaps is questioned, and they have been found to cause endocrine disruption when administered in relatively large doses in laboratory animals. A significant concern is that their presence in the environment may stimulate the evolution of antibiotic resistant bacteria. One of the pioneering researchers on TCS and TCC in biosolids, soils, and sediments is Rolf Halden, now with Arizona State University; he is quoted in the *Times* article, noting about FDA that "It's a big deal they are taking this on." In 2010, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) had sued to force FDA to finalize a long-languishing rule on antimicrobials; FDA's current action is part of a consent order from that case. The rule is scheduled to be finalized by June 2016.

The battle over these antimicrobials has been ongoing for years (e.g., see this [2011 Times article](#)). The importance for biosolids managers is that chemicals used in products that enter wastewater be screened carefully for safety, including their potential

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NEBRA NEW MEMBER

**Waste Management: Organic
Recycling Group (WMOR) and the
Corporate Organic Growth Group -
New England**

WELCOME!

Marc Hébert of the Quebec ministry notes that, in Quebec, the recycling of biosolids and other fertilizing residuals continues to increase slowly, "thanks to the efforts of many in the private and public sectors and the tax imposed on disposal.... This recycling has contributed to the prosperity and sustainability of approximately 1,300 participating farms that recycled about 1.1 million tonnes of municipal and industrial residuals."

In Brief / en bref....

Vermont continues steps toward advancing recycling and diverting food waste and other organics from landfill disposal. Vermont's Universal Recycling law (Act 148) requires that all facilities collecting trash provide collection of standard recyclables by July 1, 2014, leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2015, and food residuals by July 1, 2017. For now, towns are being encouraged to promote home composting as a first step toward reducing food waste disposal. Resources for implementation of Act 148 are increasing; see the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) [dedicated webpage](#).

Quebec's pulp and paper mills and their environmental compliance is the topic of a recent report from the Quebec environment ministry. In 2011, there were 42 pulp and paper mills scattered throughout all parts of the province, and, in general, their environmental compliance was good. The management of the solids from treatment of mill wastewaters continues steadily, as it has for some years, with 29% recycled to soils, 43% combusted for energy, and 28% landfilled. Most (65%) of the ash from combustion of pulp and paper residuals is landfilled, as is the majority of alkaline byproduct. Since 2000, there has been ongoing research in Quebec regarding the long-term impacts of use of pulp and paper residuals on soils and crops. A [paper from this research](#) appeared this year in the *Journal of Environmental Quality*.

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) published its turf fertilizer report this fall. This report is the culmination of an effort to guide state laws and regulations concerning fertilizer uses on turf grasses. Learn more and download the report [here](#).

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