

Subject: NEBRAMail -- January 2020
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 at 3:42:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: NEBRA
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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

January 24, 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

EVENTS...

February 5th and 6th: [Renewable Energy Symposium](#): The Power of Renewable Energy. Chateau Laurier, Quebec City, Canada.

National Association of Clean Water
Annual 2020 winter conference in

2019 Year in Review: This Too Shall PFAS

News stories in NEBRA's archives for 2019 begin and end with PFAS. Is PFAS the Alpha and Omega for NEBRA? Let's hope not! However, 2019 was a particularly active year with respect to PFAS legislation and regulations. NEBRA has been on the forefront of this particular biosolids issue since 2017.

2019 was also a year of major changes for the organization. [Read more about NEBRA activities in 2019...](#)



Agencies' 2020 winter conference in Atlanta, Georgia, **February 4th through the 7th**. "Chasing Zero: How Today's Policies Are Shaping the Future of Clean Water."

REMINDER: The 2019 Sewage Sludge/ Biosolids Annual Reports are due to EPA by **February 19, 2020**.

February 22nd is the deadline to submit abstracts for the Mid Atlantic Biosolids Association's Summer Symposium. Click [here](#) to see the call for presentations for "Building Biosolids Connections to Regional Environmental Challenges."

The agenda is out for the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA)'s conference on [The Science of PFAS: Public Health & the Environment](#) to be held in Framingham, Massachusetts beginning on **March 31st**.

WEF's annual Residuals & [Biosolids Conference](#) is in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this year from **March 31st through April 3rd**.

National **Water Week 2020** will be held April 26th through May 2nd in Washington D.C.

[More events...](#)



Legislation and Regulation 2020 – With A Dose of PFAS

PFAS remains a focus of many of the New England states' environmental agencies and legislatures. Canada seems to be taking a more contemplative approach. The impacts of regulatory developments in 2019 on biosolids management markets have been dramatic. Costs in New England have recently doubled in some instances. Concord New Hampshire (population 43,000, ~~~15,000~~ wet tons of biosolids/year) will likely spend \$500,000 more this year for solids management, compared to 2018.
~7,500 wet tons, corrected total

For a state-by-state synopsis of developing regulations and legislation, [read on...](#)

Upcoming Webinar: NEBRA PFAS Update, Including PFAS & Biosolids Literature Review

January 31, 12:00 Noon Eastern / 9:00 Pacific

Ned Beecher (NEBRA) and Michael Rainey, former biosolids coordinator at NHDES, will present an update on PFAS & biosolids/residuals, including Mike's recently-completed, updated biosolids & PFAS literature review (available on the "research" subtopic PFAS page on the NEBRA website). RSVP to ned.beecher@nebiosolids.org. Recommended donation for webinar is \$0 - \$40. Donations can be made [here](#) (click

CHECK IT OUT:

NEBRA member Marc Hebert has written a **History of Biosolids Recycling in Quebec**, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

New York Governor Cuomo [announced](#) sewer/water infrastructure funding including \$5 million for a **regional sludge digester** for Albany and Saratoga counties.

Speaking of digesters, here's something you don't see too often: a [Save Our Digester](#) group has formed in the town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona.

[Hydraloop](#), in-home water recycling units being used in Europe and Africa, are coming to United States.

A University of Florida study showing biosolids produce less nitrogen and phosphorus runoff than inorganic fertilizers is discussed in this [blog](#).

Here's a fun website with a serious message about what not to flush down the toilet, featuring spokesperson [Patty Potty](#).

Employment

“Donate”, put “Jan. 31 webinar” in the note).

In Brief / en bref...

Irving Pulp and Paper Gets Approval for New and Improved Fertilizer Label for Wood Ash

NEBRA Member LP Consulting (Halifax, Canada) informed NEBRAMail that Irving Pulp & Paper (St. John, New Brunswick) has received approval of their new and improved CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) fertilizer/lime label. According to LP Consulting, this means the ash meets metal and pathogen regulations that commercial fertilizer must meet and does not need a provincial approval. Their previous label was 0 – 0.5 – 1.5 (0.5% available phosphoric acid and 1.5% soluble potash). The new label has increased to 0 – 0.9- 2.2 which is great for the agricultural industry. Ash from St. John is shipped to farms in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for use on forages, grain, soybeans, corn, vegetables, and more. Irving has had a successful ash program since 2009 where ash is pre-booked by farmers two years in advance for beneficial re-use of a local sustainable residual. Wood ash has a fertilizer and lime replacement “value” between \$100-\$150/ton depending on burner efficiency (although this is not what it is sold for). There’s been quite a bit of research done in Maine on using it on potatoes.

For a great story about a farmer using this product, which is very popular in the Maritimes, check out [Ontario Farmer](#).

California Takes Lead in Diversion of Organics from

Opportunities

NEBRA Member Sylvis has several job openings. Go to the NEBRA [website](#) for more details.



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Landfills

Even as challenges like PFAS are causing some states, like Maine and New Hampshire, to pull back from recycling organics to soils, California is required by major legislation to start enforcing a ban on organics going to landfill starting in 2022. See how Ventura County is preparing, aggressively building organics diversion and processing programs: <https://vcreporter.com/2020/01/eye-on-the-environment-organic-waste-the-focus-for-recycling-in-2020/>.

EPA Settles Enforcement Actions on Land Application of Out-of-Spec Biosolids

In late December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the settlement of enforcement actions related to the land application of biosolids. There was a total of 9 entities involved in the enforcement actions, 4 of which were located in EPA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska). In a December 20th [news release](#) from EPA Region 7, Susan Bodine, EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, said:

“When sewage sludge is properly processed and treated, the resulting biosolids can be used as a fertilizer. EPA protects

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THANK YOU!

NEWS from NEBRA

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "[News](#)" page.

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human health and the environment by ensuring that proper procedures are followed and by enforcing against violators.”

The violations involved the land application of biosolids where regulatory limits for various constituents were exceeded including pathogens, such as E. coli and Salmonella, and heavy metals, such as cadmium, lead, nickel and molybdenum. EPA's enforcement actions reinforce the importance and need for biosolids producers to have strong quality assurance programs.



NHDES' Ray Gordon Takes New Position Managing Franklin Treatment Facility

Ray Gordon, Supervisor of the Residuals Management Section at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), is changing jobs. On January 31st, he will be starting at the NHDES-owned and operated Winnepesaukee River Basin Project and its Franklin wastewater treatment facility. His new title will be Wastewater Treatment Facility Administrator and he will be reporting directly to the Project Administrator Sharon McMillin. Ray has been instrumental over

the past few years at NHDES, especially in addressing the challenges of PFAS as they relate to wastewater, septage, and biosolids. Some of his work was profiled in a recent [NEBRAMail](#). In her email announcing Ray's new role, NEBRAMail learned from Dr. McMillin that when Ray is not at work, he enjoys Lego bricks and has been recognized by the SEE Science Center in Manchester, New Hampshire, for his contribution in constructing the Manchester Mill Yard out of Lego bricks.

NEBRA wishes Ray the best in his new job!



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