

Subject: Court findings, training classes, & more... NEBRAMail January 2016

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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

January 25, 2016

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TRAINING! EVENTS!

**February 9 - Biosolids Training
Wells, Maine**

A lot of what happens in a wastewater treatment plant impacts the quality of biosolids produced there. A new NEBRA and JETCC workshop will train operators to focus on the most critical process controls for ensuring biosolids quality. 6 training credit hours will be awarded. [Register](#) thru JETCC.

PA Supreme Court: Biosolids Use Is a "Normal Agricultural Activity"

In late December, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of biosolids management company Synagro and farmers who use biosolids, finding that biosolids recycling on farms is a "normal agricultural practice" and is therefore protected from untimely and burdensome litigation. The case, known as Gilbert v. Synagro, has been watched closely by biosolids managers and farmers, because it occurred in a large, agricultural state in the eastern U. S., where conflict over biosolids and other farming practices continue to fester in areas where suburban growth has spread into traditional farming areas. Right-To-Farm Acts exist in some form in most states. Municipalities everywhere are now clearly on notice that arbitrary ordinances interfering with agricultural uses of biosolids may be unlawful, depending on the specific provisions of a state's right-to-farm law.

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NEBRA Recognized by Biosolids Management Award

On Wednesday, January 27th, at its Annual Conference, NEWEA will present its annual Biosolids Management Award to NEBRA's Ned Beecher, who has been Executive Director since the organization's inception in 1998.



Incinerator Operator Training

NEIWPCC, JETCC, and NEBRA will offer a special regional training course for sewage sludge incinerator operators to meet the new U. S. EPA air regulations that become effective March 21, 2016. Date & location TBA. [Contact NEBRA](#) for details.

Northeast Digestion Roundtable

NEBRA is collaborating with NH DES, with input from U. S. EPA Region 1, on a regular information exchange on operations of anaerobic digesters. Operators & managers of AD facilities are encouraged to participate. The first NDR meeting will be by free online webinar in early February. This builds on a collaborative [NERC/NEBRA](#) webinar that included digestion information. [Contact NEBRA to sign up.](#)

April 3 - 6, 2016. WEF Residuals & Biosolids Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

May 17 - 19, 2016. Canadian Biosolids & Residuals Conference, Edmonton, AB

[NEBRA Events page](#)

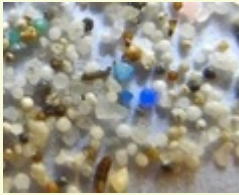
CHECK IT OUT...

NEBRA Members - Check out what NEBRA is tracking & saying regarding regulations & legislation. See the Reg/Leg Committee work on the [members-only webpage](#). (Forgot password? [Contact NEBRA](#).) See also the latest edition of the *NEWEA Journal* for a NEBRA summary of current regulation & legislation regarding biosolids.

Jobs! There are some [job postings on the NEBRA website](#).

Biosolids were successfully land

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Microbeads Banned

With little fanfare, just as 2015 ended, President Obama signed into law a bill banning microbeads in consumer products. Environmental concerns had been mounting for years regarding these tiny bits of plastic used as exfoliants in personal care products (see [2014 New York State Attorney General's report](#)). Several states had already banned them

and the recent federal action was a rare recent showing of bipartisanship action. The ban becomes effective July 1, 2017. Several of the largest consumer products companies had already pledged to phase out use of microbeads.

The ban will help protect the quality of wastewater treatment effluent and biosolids.

See media coverage: [Business Insider](#), [CNN](#)

Organic Residuals - News from Quebec

- Montreal food scrap recovery plan...
- Pulp and paper mill residuals use & disposal...
- Compiled research studies...
- Wood ash recycling...

[More...](#)

NH Legislature Considers Studying Septage - Again

The New Hampshire Legislature is considering a bill (HB 1398) that would establish a commission to study septage management. The bill was introduced by legislators from the Newport area in the central western part of the state. There, controversy has been swirling since last spring over a proposed new septage land application site. The local Planning Board has introduced a zoning change that would restrict septage land application, and a court case is in process.

At a legislative hearing before the House Environment & Agriculture Committee on January 19th, NEBRA and several septage management professionals testified strongly against setting up a legislative study commission, noting that the legislature and the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) have studied septage and biosolids management for much of the past two decades. At the hearing, DES also recommended that the bill be voted down. NEBRA's letter noted that the local concern in Newport should be worked out locally and not played out at the state level. Testimony by the NH Association of Septage Haulers and Paul Johnson of Best Septic explained the practices required in septage management that ensure its safety and benefits to crops.

The E & A Committee has not yet scheduled further action on HB 1398.

NEBRA members can view NEBRA's testimony on the [Reg/Leg Committee webpage](#)

applied in western New York; see this [Buffalo News article](#). quasar energy group (a NEBRA member) has been patiently working on local concerns regarding biosolids use in agriculture.

Massachusetts has [updated its organics management plan](#). It includes plans for a meeting of stakeholders aimed at increasing uses of composts, conducting organic residuals market analysis, and hosting a composting workshop.

“The Martian’s crap science is not crap science.” So ends a [new video from “The Film Theorists.”](#) The video looks at the science behind the recent movie starring Matt Damon. It mentions biosolids and finds that Damon’s character’s survival growing potatoes on Mars using human excreta is reasonable science.

The King County (Seattle) "loop" biosolids was featured by a recent Evergreen State College [sustainable infrastructure blog](#).

NPR covered biosolids & biogas again recently, [this time](#) regarding the Grand Junction, CO water resource recovery facility.

U.S. Composting Council: [New video](#) on use of certified compost for home lawns.

Lystek (a NEBRA member) has released a [new series of videos](#) about biosolids recycling and its products & services.

In Brief / en bref...

- Congratulations to the [Rich Earth Institute](#) (REI) and lead author Abe No Hays for an article on their Brattleboro, VT – based urine diversion program and research...
- Two wood-to-energy plants in Maine will close in March...
- Food scraps & other organic "wastes" are a tough market...
- Philadelphia is now requiring new home construction to include installation of in-sink food disposers that grind food scraps and send them into the wastewater collection and treatment system...

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THANK YOU!

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

P. O. Box 422 • 26 Greggs Way • Tamworth, NH 03886 USA • 603-323-7654 • info@nebiosolids.org

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