




Share this:   

Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

**November 26, 2013**

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

*Happy U. S. Thanksgiving!*

## CONTENTS

- [Vermont Biosolids Forum](#)
- [NEBRA Comments on Federal Rules](#)
- [NE R & B Conference](#)
- [NEBRA Annual Meeting](#)
- [Urine Diversion](#)
- [Maine Odor Standards](#)
- [Mass Organics Waste Ban](#)
- [Member Highlights - Fred McNeil](#)
- [In Brief / en bref...](#)

## EVENTS

- **December 4, 1 - 3 pm, U. S. EPA webinar** on Electronic Reporting Rule. [Details.](#)
- **January 26 - 29: 2014 NEWEA Annual Conference**, Boston, MA. [Details](#) and Registration.
- **May 18 - 21: 2014 WEF Residuals and Biosolids - Sustainability Made Simple: Facilitating**

## Vermont Biosolids Forum

On November 5th, Vermont DEC held a Biosolids Forum to explore concerns raised by a few local citizens about the recycling of biosolids to soils. St. Leo's Hall in Waterbury, VT, was packed with representatives from DEC, biosolids generators and consultants, farmers, concerned citizens, several interest groups, and NEBRA representatives. The atmosphere was both positive and collaborative regarding the benefits of biosolids. Farmers from Essex and Stowe explained the benefits they receive from using biosolids: slow-release nutrients, reduced chemical fertilizer needs, and significant cost savings; Lorenzo Whitcomb saves \$100/acre on fertilizer costs by using Essex Junction biosolids.



[More....](#)

## NEBRA Comments on Federal Rules

Late this fall, public comment periods are ending regarding two major proposed new federal regulations affecting biosolids: the U. S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) "Produce Safety Rule" and the U. S. EPA NPDES program "Electronic Reporting Rule." NEBRA is submitting comments to both, focusing on the proposed Rule's treatment of biosolids.

**NOTE:** On December 4th, 1 - 3 pm Eastern, U. S. EPA is hosting a webinar on the proposed Electronic Reporting Rule. Join [here](#) at the time of the webinar to participate.

The proposed FDA rule includes biosolids as one of many "biological soil amendments" that are available to farmers, just like animal manures. NEBRA stated:

"We commend FDA and the authors of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for the explicit focus on scientific analysis and risk assessment in the creation of the proposed regulations. This careful science was already evident in FDA's discussion of biosolids in the 1998 "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables." In that document, FDA formally recognized the significance and effectiveness of the pathogen controls required for biosolids by 40 CFR Part 503, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations for the use and disposal of sewage sludge (biosolids).... This scientific rigor has also been evident in FDA's (and partner agencies') approach, over recent years, in analyzing outbreaks of food-borne illness, using environmental assessment modeling.... We appreciate that FDA clearly recognizes the efficacy of the 40 CFR Part 503 biosolids regulations and is 'not

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

---

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

---

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

incorporate odor management standards for facilities that process wastewater treatment sludge from publicly owned treatment works and facilities that process septage. The rules can be viewed at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/rules/>. The comment deadline is 5:00 pm December 6, 2013. The new rules are based upon field measurement of odor intensity using a modified 5 point scale based upon n- butanol. The proposed standards are based upon an ASTM standard number 544- "Standard Practices for Referencing Suprathreshold Odor Intensity." Comments may be directed to Paula M. Clark or Carla J. Hopkins at the Maine DEP.

---

### **Massachusetts Organics Waste Ban Update**

As long promised, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has proposed a regulatory change that "would add 'commercial organic material' to the list of materials banned from disposal..., effective July 1, 2014." The amended regulation will be part of 310 CMR 19.017 and related provisions in 310 CMR 19.000. "The department is also making the draft waste ban guidance document for solid waste facilities and guidance for waste haulers and generators available for review and comment...." Public hearings were held in early August. Details are available on the MassDEP website. The [RecyclingWorks](#) website also has information and guidance.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts has begun the formal process of creating private-public partnerships for construction and operation of anaerobic digestion facilities on state lands, including at the Amherst wastewater treatment plant next to the University of MA. The facilities are intended to help provide capacity for managing the hundreds of thousands of tons of source separated organics - food waste - that will be diverted from landfills when the proposed organics ban goes into effect.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

Fred McNeil was recently named the "Nubian God of Water" in a recent [Union Leader article](#) by Mark Hayward. Fifty percent of Manchester sewers are combined with storm water, not an uncommon problem in the northeast. The "City Matters" article explained the need for the \$165 million CSO separation project currently underway. Twelve-inch PVC sewer pipes are being laid beside larger storm water pipes in parts of the city. Some of the cities original brick waterways are still tight and will now carry sewer. Fred McNeil is a down-to-earth and practical visionary, with large projects both completed and underway in Manchester.

*NEBRA members interested in being covered by Member Highlights - contact NEBRA!*

---

#### **In Brief / en bref....**

**The National Biosolids Partnership has announced a new Biosolids Management Program (BMP) audit company** - Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance. Some in the EMS/BMP program will recognize LRQA lead auditor Michael Wardell.

**A large abandoned pile of compost in Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes, Quebec has been cleaned up and put to beneficial use**, according to the environment ministry. Service Environnementaux Richelieu (SER) has move all 293,421 tonnes, under contract with the province. Full site restoration will be completed in the coming months.

**N-Viro Canada, a NEBRA member, received an [award](#)**. Congratulations!

**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)**



---

[Subscribe](#) to our email list