Subject: Distilled news - NEBRAMail December 2014
Date: Monday, December 29, 2014 at 11:25:17 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: NEBRA
To: info@nebiosolids.org

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may see it online.

Share this:

December 29, 2014

Do you benefit from this news?
Join NEBRA.

CHECK IT OUT...

- ***Vice***, an online news service, looked at biosolids management in New York City in a 3-part video series: Part 1 (click from there to Parts 2 & 3).
- ***Treatment Plant Operator*** (TPO) provides excellent coverage of biosolids! In the December edition, editorTed Rulseh advocated for more communications by biosolids management programs in his editorial "Dumping 'Human Waste"' No They're Not."
- **Job Opportunity:** Sylvis in British Columbia has

Biosolids Trace Chemicals Research Happening in This Region

Gordon Price discusses research he started in 2008

Introduction

In NEBRA's region, there is only one researcher looking closely at key questions about microconstituents in biosolids: Gordon Price at Dalhousie University's Truro, NS agricultural campus....

The field study sites in Truro overseen by Dr. Price have received biosolids since 2008...

"Our first few years of studying trace chemicals was just trying to do a broad scope survey of the various compounds that might be here," Dr. Price explained during a site visit in September. "We monitor and soil sample this site every 3 to 4 weeks from April through October or November. We've been doing that every year..."

Nearby are additional study sites... More...

openings. Details...

Welcome New NEBRA Member:

Harvest Power

SPONSORS of www.nebiosolids.org

- Northern Tilth
- CDM Smith
- Agresource
- Eastern Analytical, Inc.
- Synagro Northeast
- Resource Mgmt, Inc.
- NEFCO
- Casella Organics
- WeCare Organics
- Stantec

THANK YOU!

SUBSCRIBE and get *NEBRAMail* direct to your inbox!

NEWS from NEBRA

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "News" page.

The lysimeter water collection system at the Dalhousie University (Truro) biosolids research site.

U. S. FDA - Update to Proposed Food Safety Rules

In September, the U. S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) released updated versions of several rules related to food safety. FDA released the initial proposed rules in January 2013 and took comments until November 2013 (NEBRA's and others' comments are available from the NEBRA office). Development of these new rules is required under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which was signed into law by President Obama in January, 2011.

The current proposed updated rules for growing of produce do not make any changes the science-based policy for use of biosolids in accordance with exisiting U. S. EPA a other regulatory standards.

However, because of a huge number of comments from farmers, FDA is now proposi more flexible standards for the use of untreated irrigation water, manure, and compos

- Farmers who use untreated water for irrigation are being the given some flexibiliity in meeting produce safey standards relating to the levels of potentia harmful microbes in the water.
- FDA has removed the nine-month waiting period between application of untreated animal manure and harvesting of crops. The agency will conduct ri assessments to provide more scientific support for a future standard. In the meantime, the standard for uses of animal manures that appear in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture National Organic Program will be acceptable: 120 days between application of raw manure and harvesting of crops grown in contact with the soil and 90 days for crops not in contact with the soil. Despite the presence of equal or greater volumes of pathogens in manures as compared biosolids, the standard for crops in contact with the soil are considerably less stringent than those for Class B biosoilds, which require a 14- or 38-month waiting period. On the other hand, crops not in contact with the soil where Cl B biosolids have been applied can be harvested 30 days after application, according to U. S. EPA standards for biosolids.
- Use of compost will not be subject to a 45-day waiting period between

application and harvest, as was originally proposed: "Properly treated and handled compost is safer than raw manure from a public health standpoint an this change to the proposal would help facilitate its use while still providing an appropriate level of public health protection."

Public comments on the FDA's revised proposed regulations closed December 15th, and the final rules are expected in 2015.

Ebola - Latest Guidance for Wastewater & Biosolids

Opportunity to support research on ebola & wastewater

As previously noted, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued ebola guidance for wastewater workers.

Some in the wastewater management community have gone further in considering the potential risks and best worker safety practices. The mos significant additional step now being recommended: wastewater treatmer facilities that receive wastewater from hospitals approved to treat ebola patients should work with those hospitals to set up ebola waste pretreatment at the hospital, so as to eliminate discharges of untreated ebola waste to collection systems. More details here and here.

In the meantime, while wastewater and biosolids are not considered pathways for spread of ebola, there are some questions on survivability. Therefore, CASA and other wastewater organizations are funding researc by a team of leading microbiologists and virologists (e.g. Dr. Charles Gerba, Univ. of AZ), who will use ebola surrogates to evaluate how long ebola virus can remain infective in various treatment and environmental situations, including, for example anaerobic digestion of wastewater solid Additional funding is sought; contact Greg Kester for details. More research details here.

Note that there are currently no active ebola cases known in North America; this fall's efforts by CDC, WEF, CASA, and other organizations are intended to prepare the wastewater and biosolids management community in the unlikely event that additional cases occur.

In Brief / en bref...

- **Quebec: Comments due to BNQ January 5th re proposed standards for use of liming amendments** derived from industry sources, such as wastewater solids incineration ash, wood ash, liming manufacture residues, and cement kiln dusts. The propose detailed standards include various limits on trace elements and contaminants in relation to the materials' neutralizing power. They

also include maximum concentration limits for all such liming materials, including the following (mg/kg dry weight): As = 75, Cd = 30, Cu = 1500, Ni = 420, {b = 500, and Zn = 2800. The proposed standard also includes sampling and testing protocols and requirements, including, for some products such as cement kiln du testing for organic compounds (PAHs, SVOCs). See proposed standard and comment form (English). Details, registration, & comment form (en francais).

- **In court: quasar and Wheatfield, NY.** In early December, quasar energy group, under a subsidiary, sued the town of Wheatfield, NY, challenging the town's newly-created ordinance banning use of biosolids. Wheatfield residents and others in the area have protested the land application of Class B biosolids over the past year, putting political pressure on the town. The NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation, as well as the agriculture department have also questioned the legality of the town ordinance, as it interferes with a normal farming practice. The first hearing in the case is expected January 14, 2015, notes *The Buffalo News*.

- **Annual U. S. Biosolids Reports** (due Feb. 19): In November, U. EPA provided an "FAQ" document and guidance regarding submitting biosolids reports.

- **Introducing TransAqua...** The Greater Moncton Sewerage Commission (GMSC) – a long-time NEBRA member – is now TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission. The new name "TransAqua" focuses on the organization's mission: Transforming wastewater into clean water. The new TransAqua website includes an excellent muti-media discussion of their biosolids composting operation (see "Compost").

- **Resource Recovery...** WERF and WEF are hosting the Intensification of Resource Recovery Forum August 9-11, 2015 at Manhattan College in New York. They are seeking technologies an systems that provide intensification of resource recovery, including recovery of energy, nutrients, water, and other products (details). Selected proposals will be featured on the forum program. Submissions are due by January 16, 2015.

- **Biogenic Carbon...** U. S. EPA has updated its review of how to assess net emissions from biogenic carbon sources (see here). In greenhouse gas emissions assessments, biogenic carbon is often considered carbon neutral, because it is part of the relatively short-

term cycling of carbon. However, research has shown greater complexity, and EPA is considering whether and how to regulate biogenic carbon emissions. This is an important consideration for those managing biosolids and other organic residuals, because these materials are often used as renewable fuels and their emissions are considered biogenic.

The current review report notes that "the revised framework provid a description of the types of factors to consider when assessing biogenic CO2 emissions and presents an equation that could be used to calculate the extent to which use of biogenic materials at a stationary source results in a net atmospheric contribution of biogenic CO2 emissions." EPA has asked its Science Advisory Board to review this latest document and provide further guidance.

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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