

Subject: NEBRAMail - Much news / Distilled for you

Date: Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:29:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: NEBRA

To: info@nebiosolids.org

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share this:   



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada



September 30, 2018

late summer edition

COMING NEXT WEEK:

– **Annual conference
wrap-up**

– **NH legislature super
supports biomass &
wood ash**

CHECK IT OUT...

Research ongoing is critical!

That's Bill Toffey's message in an [exceptional MABA blog](#) August 27th. W3170 is the leading, long-term research program addressing "Beneficial Reuse of Residuals and Reclaimed Water: Impact on Soil Ecosystem and Human Health," organized through a USDA designation and land grant universities. Biosolids stakeholders and groups - including NEBRA - need to pay attention and support research, advises Toffey. He attended this year's annual W3170 research meeting in June and summarizes the science presented there. [Read it.](#)

[Mine reclamation near Sudbury, Ontario.](#)

Bloom - DC Water's biosolids product is in [the](#)

What biosolids & residuals can do.

"I don't think I've seen a more significant land reclamation project using biosolids anywhere in the Northeast," said Charley Hanson (Resource Management Inc.) during an August 2nd tour of the vast mine tailings plateaus at Asbestos, Quebec (photo above). There, biosolids, paper mill residuals, some gypsum waste, and digestates are blended in agronomic recipes to reclaim tailings rubble – barren rock piles and gravel that extends for miles.

Since 2004, Englobe, a soils and residuals management company and NEBRA member based in Sherbrooke, has deployed nearly 400,000 tons of residuals to revegetate 500+ acres of land that may now be used for wildlife, park land, and recreation. Nicholas Leblanc organized tours in early August, with Serge Loubier and other Englobe specialists explaining the details of the project.

"Reclamation of this sort is the best environmental story ever for biosolids and residuals recycling. There is no down side, no viable argument against it. This is residuals being the solution," said Ned Beecher of NEBRA. Similar large mine reclamation projects have shown similar dramatic success elsewhere in Quebec – and here and there across North America.

More photos in the current NEWEA Journal NEBRA Highlights, coming to members soon.... and online [here](#) Oct. 5th.

October 5, Noon EDT

Eat lunch. Digest. [More...](#)

See slides & listen to discussion of June's webinar on co-digestion with Dr. Matt Higgins, Bucknell University [here](#).

[news](#), and the local Sierra Club chapter is willing to learn more and collaborate on a risk assessment.

PFAS: [WEF's webinar](#) on August 1st on poly- and perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) related to biosolids and residuals was attended by about 200 professionals. WEF members can view the recording at no cost (others \$40).

NEW! Composting Fact Sheet by WEF. [See here.](#) **Biosolids Facility Report - Online Data from EPA**

Facilities in the 42 states where EPA implements the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) federal [biosolids program](#) submitted Biosolids Annual Reports electronically for the second time in February 2018 – continuing to reduce the burden of paper reporting. The data presented in ECHO via the [Biosolids Facility Search](#) results are now available in a new Biosolids Facility Report. The new report provides integrated Biosolids Annual Report data with other biosolids enforcement and compliance data in a single report.

Users can navigate to the report by selecting “CWA Program Area Reports” under



Northeast Digestion Roundtable 2018

Quarterly webinars to share technical operations experiences & advance best practices regarding anaerobic digestion in this region.

In Brief / en bref...

Biosolids continue to be land applied in Gilmanston, NH, where a local ban was passed in March. Farms that were permitted by the state and using biosolids before the town vote are "grandfathered," allowed to continue use, according to several legal opinions, and they are doing so. Ray Gordon of the NH Department of Environmental Services is quoted in this [article explaining the current situation](#).

New MA On-Farm Composting [regulations were proposed](#) - and comments were accepted - this summer. The new regulations would have farms register composting operations to avoid having to follow more involved Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) site assignment requirements. The revised regulations prescribe the maximum amounts of off-site materials that can be composted on farms and require at least 50% of resulting compost be used on-farm. MDAR is reviewing comments.

At the same time, in an omnibus bill, the Legislature directed that the MassDEP regulate on-farm composting, which is currently regulated only by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) ([see news article](#)). These actions resulted, in part, from ongoing conflict between an on-farm compost operation in Northboro and the farm's neighbors. The MA Farm Bureau opposed the change, and Governor Charlie Baker vetoed that portion of the legislation, leaving on-farm composting regulation at MDAR ([see news article](#)).

MA non-farm composting regulations are [summarized anew here](#).

In western New York, the town of Wheatfield lost its appeal against the NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets (see [town website compilation of the issue](#)). The town sought to overturn MDAR's ruling

"Related Reports" found in the Facility Summary section of the Detailed Facility Report, or by selecting the "W" icon where Report icons are available within ECHO.



[@nebiosolids](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Join NEBRA.](#)

SPONSORS of www.nebiosolids.org

- [NEFCO](#)
- [Casella Organics](#)
- [Northern Tilth](#)
- [Stantec](#)
- [Maritime Provinces WWA](#)
- [Lystek](#)
- [Natural Resources Solutions LLC](#)
- [CDM Smith](#)
- [Agresource](#)
- [Synagro Northeast](#)
- [Resource Mgmt, Inc.](#)

THANK YOU!

NEWS from NEBRA

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

against the Town's local ban on biosolids use. Instead, [the court upheld](#) the use of biosolids on one local farm (see [news coverage](#)).

Meanwhile, in central New York, Assemblyman Santabarbara [continues to gain a bit of attention](#) by attacking biosolids processing and recycling.

And, on Long Island, New York, concerns about impacts of large wood mulch operations have triggered study and upcoming regulatory changes to protect groundwater, according to a [news release](#) from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The proposed Slate Belt biosolids drying project in northeast Pennsylvania continues to move forward through local and state regulatory requirements, with adaptations to meet citizen concerns. Key news coverage, June - September:

- [project benefits & details \(with graphics\)](#)
- [plans modified](#)
- [state permit applications filed](#)
- [local planning board review continues... slowly.](#)

Meanwhile, a bill in the PA legislature would allow municipalities to regulate biosolids locally, which is currently discouraged in large part because the PA Supreme Court has declared biosolids use to a "normal agricultural activity" under the state's "right-to-farm law.

Indian River County, FL imposed a biosolids moratorium as concerns about toxic algae blooms and phosphorus raise questions about biosolids use. Are biosolids BMPs & improved communications needed? See [TC Palm story](#) and [Florida Times Union](#) article

Across the continent, a county ban in Imperial County, CA was annulled by a court in May. According to Greg Kester of CASA, this court ruling, which is based on state preemption in the area of biosolids management, is consistent with the overturning of a ban in Kern County and "state regulations under development which disallow restrictive or prohibitive local ordinances."



[SUBSCRIBE](#)

and get
NEBRAMail
direct to your
inbox!

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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

This email was sent to info@nebiosolids.org. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using TrueRemove®.

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

emma®