

Subject: NEBRAMail

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 10:48:35 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: NEBRA

To: NEBRA

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

January 31, 2013

CONTENTS...

- Update: MA Organics Regulations & Policy
 - National Biosolids Partnership - Changing
 - Rate of Biosolids Recycling Climbs in Quebec
 - In Brief / En bref...

CHECK IT OUT...

NEW Video: [Water Resource Recovery Facility](#) - an excellent WEF 10-minute detailed 3-D virtual tour of wastewater

Update: MA Organics Regulations & Policy
In November, the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated updated final rules (310 CMR 16) intended to streamline the siting of moderate-size anaerobic digesters and composting facilities that, it is hoped, will help manage the 300,000 additional tons of organic residuals that are expected to be diverted from landfills in the next few years. In addition, MassDEP updated wastewater regulations (314 CMR 12) to allow treatment plants with digesters to process outside waste.

The new regulations can be downloaded [here](#) (scroll down to the third listing on this page, headed "310 CMR 16.00, 310 CMR 19.00 & 314 CMR 12.00: Building Capacity for Managing Organic Materials - November 2012").

BioCycle [covered this story](#) in its December 2012 issue.

Now, MassDEP is working with other state agencies to help facilitate development of organics processing facilities. Funding is being offered, and the state is hoping to provide state land for the construction of at least one anaerobic digestion facility, as a model of how it can be done.

treatment

Success: Chicago biosolids use on soccer fields builds stronger turf and saves money. [Read](#).

["A Day in the Life of a Turd"](#) - a radio reporter's take on San Francisco's wastewater and biosolids management program.

Gloversville-Johnstown biogas noted by [National Public Radio blog](#).

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In related news, gasification & pyrolysis are highlighted in revisions of the MA Draft Solid Waste Master Plan. The revised draft was released in December and builds on the 2010 draft. It provides more details on how the new organics regulations fit into broader goals and policies, as well as allowing for gasification or pyrolysis facilities that can "meet stringent recycling, emissions and energy efficiency standards.... The moratorium will remain in place for new capacity for traditional combustion of municipal solid waste." [More details](#).

NEBRA continues to follow these developments, as they impact the organic residuals marketplace in the state and region.

National Biosolids Partnership - Changing....

"After almost 15 years, federal funding of the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) is coming to an end." So wrote Eileen O'Neill, PhD (soil science), Deputy Executive Director of WEF, in December. "WEF has been planning for this, and, beginning in January, management of the NBP and WEF's Biosolids program will move to WEF's Water Science & Engineering Center, where all of WEF's other technical initiatives and programs are housed." Barry Liner, PhD (sustainable water resources), has taken on oversight of WEF's biosolids program, and staff are being assigned to assist.

"Support for the NBP and its participating organizations will continue and EMS [Environmental Management System] training and biosolids education will still be available," explained O'Neill. "This new arrangement will promote synergy with WEF's other technical and sustainability related committees and programs including our nutrient and energy initiatives."

"The NBP has been staffed by a number of granted-funded personnel over the years and most recently by Jim Cox and also by Sam Hadeed, who has been with the program since its inception and with WEF and NACWA before that." WEF's contracts with Hadeed and Cox ended in mid-January. "We are certainly very grateful for their dedicated

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service," wrote O'Neill. "We wish them all the best in their new endeavors."

NEBRA also expresses appreciation to Jim Cox and Sam Hadeed for their years of biosolids work, especially on the EMS program, helping to advance the quality of biosolids management. "I enjoyed working with Jim and Sam over the past couple of years," said NEBRA staff Ned Beecher. "And Sam was instrumental, in the early days of NEBRA, in helping define the interactive network of WEF, NACWA, and the regional biosolids associations. We wish them both well."

The NBP biosolids EMS, also known as the Biosolids Management Program (BMP), continues to recognize and certify biosolids management programs that go above and beyond regulatory compliance and commit to continual improvement through auditing and corrective actions. Several organizations involved in the "Class of 2012" EMS/BMP training program are in the process of having audits by outside audit firms and will be formally recognized for their management programs in the coming months.

Rate of Biosolids Recycling Climbs in Quebec (Thanks to Marc Hébert for this report.)

In December, RECYC-Québec published its [latest report on recycling](#). Since 2009, the landfilling of wastewater solids has been diminishing; in 2011, the rate of landfill disposal went down 40,000 tons in comparison to 2010, partly due to the province's per-ton tax on landfill disposal or incineration without energy recovery. This drove an increase in recycling in agriculture, which the environment ministry estimates reached 36% in 2011. The majority of Quebec's wastewater solids are incinerated at Qntreal, Québec City, and Longueuil. But Québec City has announced plans to install anaerobic digestion and cease incineration within a few years.

Looking at the larger picture, in 2010, Quebec produced more than 4.4 million tonnes of putrescible organic matter. Of these, 0.9 million tons were recycled - about 20%. The provincial target for 2015 is 60%.

In Brief / En bref...

Maureen Reilly, administrator of the listserv "Sludge Watch," died suddenly in December at the age of 58. She was known throughout North America for her opposition to use of biosolids on land. NEBRA staff Ned Beecher said in a note to Sludge Watch "I met her at the 2004 biosolids research summit in Washington, and we corresponded occasionally by email. We clearly disagreed on some things related to treated sewage sludge/biosolids. But she was

thoughtful, dedicated, and passionate about her work. And I think many of us involved in managing wastewater solids have benefited from her tireless efforts. She provided a lot of information and perspective, and she is responsible for helping set the bar higher for biosolids management. Put simply, her work through SludgeWatch helped make biosolids management programs better across this continent. My condolences go out to her family and friends." [More details](#).

Darien, CT biosolids are put to use in soil mixes, according to a [local newspaper article](#), which questions the quality of the product and program.

NViro Canada is advancing biosolids utilization in and around Sudbury, Ontario. [Details](#).

NH's Water Infrastructure - fine recent articles published by the NH Municipal Association:

["New Hampshire's Water Assets Under Pressure: Municipal Wastewater Systems"](#)

["Municipalities: Stewards of New Hampshire's Water Infrastructure"](#)

Certain biosolids have now been recognized as legitimate fuel under the new sewage sludge incinerator (SSI) regulations promulgated by EPA in 2011. Detroit biosolids are managed as a product and are similar enough to the coal they replace with regards to trace pollutants that they have been approved by U. S. EPA's air office for combustion without having to meeting the new stringent MACT standards. Contact the NEBRA office for more details about this and other developments related to the new SSI rules.

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