



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

May 2013						
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"From 503 to Infinity!" The North East Biosolids & Residuals Conference October 29 & 30, 2013 Concord, New Hampshire

Mark Your Calendars!

Join us amongst the fall colors in Concord, New Hampshire, for a look back and a look forward, "From 503 to Infinity." This year's annual conference will celebrate 20 years of the U. S. EPA 40 CFR Part 503 regulations, which built a solid footing for the advancements in resource recovery we are experiencing today. The conference will be highlighted by invited speakers from the days when 503 was young - Dr. Alan Rubin (U. S. EPA, retired), Dr. Rufus Chaney (USDA), Dr. Eliot Epstein, and more... And you and others will give us a glimpse of where we're headed: "To infinity!"

Call for Abstracts

Please submit a short abstract by **Friday June 14** through the online abstract submittal system on the NEWEA website: <http://www.newea.org/>.

More conference [details](#).

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We take this opportunity to welcome **NEW MEMBERS** to the NEBRA community!

Notice how varied and widespread NEBRA is.....

Individual Members...

John Forcier of Forcier Consulting Engineers, Colchester, VT

Natalie Sierra of RMC Water

HIGHLIGHTS: LAWPCA Nears Completion of Anaerobic Digesters and Cogeneration Plant!

by Maggie Finn, Administrative & Project Assistant



and Environment, Belmont,
MA

Dwayne Doucette of CBCL
Limited, Charlottetown, PE

Jim Goodreau of the Ithaca
Area Wastewater Treatment
Plant, Ithaca, NY

Biosolids Generators...

Town of Stowe, VT WWTP
Town of Newington, NH

Consultant

Natural Systems Utilities LLC,
Hillsborough, NJ

Biosolids Management Co....

Lystek International Inc.,
Cambridge, ON

EVENTS...

June 19: Treating & Managing Biosolids
MPWWA, ACWWA,
and NEBRA offer a
one-day training and
tour with necessary
information to advance
a beneficial biosolids
program in the Maritime
Provinces. [Details & registration.](#)

July 16-17: MABA Land Application Symposium 2013: Theory Practice and Insights Biosolids land application training and networking. [Details and registration.](#)

More [event listings](#)....

CHECK IT OUT...

In April, I had the pleasure of visiting the Lewiston Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (LAWPCA) for a biosolids composting workshop, sponsored by JETCC. The workshop was well run and informative and a highlight was a tour of the new anaerobic digester and cogeneration infrastructure, which is under construction at the Lewiston facility. Mac Richardson, long time superintendent, NEBRA member, and forward thinker gave a spectacular tour to workshop attendees. The two new digesters are nearing completion, and the flexible membrane biogas storage tank was inflated and almost ready for use. Sparks were flying and there was an undercurrent of excitement as the hard-hat-clad workers hurried about their business.

The 12.7 MGD facility will soon be a state of the art composting and **co-generation** facility. With a creative mix of funding, including from the Maine Revolving Loan Fund and a grant from Efficiency Maine, the project will not affect current sewer rates. It is expected to reduce electrical consumption by more than half and cut CO2 emissions by 80% or more. The facility is in the top 1% of electrical users in Maine, which is not unusual for a wastewater treatment facility. That is close to \$300,000 savings in electricity every year.

Biosolids generated at the Lewiston facility are currently trucked to the LAWPCA Auburn composting facility. When the new digesters are operational, the biosolids generation is expected to be halved, with lower odor and no need for liming. The resulting biosolids will be composted and land applied. With both nutrient recycling and co-generation at LAWPCA, they enter the elite of treatment facilities in the country, on the forefront of recycling and green energy production.

MassDEP Reforms Small Part of Sludge Rules

More than 20 years ago, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) adopted regulations for the land application of "sludges." Soon after, the U. S. EPA adopted the Part 503 regulations for biosolids management. Since then, MassDEP has never updated the state regulations, and some of the state standards conflict with those in Part 503.

This spring, as part of broad regulatory reform, MassDEP has opened up the sludge rules (310 CMR 32.00) and is proposing some housekeeping changes and one substantive change: extending a permit term from 2 years to 5 years. NEBRA's Regulatory & Legislative Committee has commended MassDEP for this first step and is urging the Department to reform more of the rule including outdated trace element standards that



Biogas Containment
at LAWPCA

NEW! *Enabling the Future of Biosolids Management*

WEF just released this forward-looking vision of this profession.

Download [here](#).

Biosolids on NPR...

National Public Radio's "The Salt" had two recent stories on biosolids: one [about compost](#), and the other regarding the [Kansas City land application program](#), to which Ned Beecher of NEBRA contributed.

Read it...

read all 'bout it!

Here are key biosolids newsletters and sources... sign up online....

NBP/WEF Biosolids News... monthly.... sign up [here](#)....

[Residuals Weekly](#) - a semi-automated online news compilation by Aaron Stephens.

NBMA's Biosolids Bulletin: monthly, Northwest focus, very fine... [details](#).

[CASA's news page:](#)

what's happening with California biosolids?

Media Help...

As announced in a recent newsletter from the Northwest Biosolids Management Association

the rule, including outdated trace element standards that discourage in-state recycling of high quality biosolids, forcing it to uses in other states. The comment period for these rule changes ended May 30th. [Details](#).

Contact the NEBRA office for a copy of NEBRA's submitted comments.

ME Legislature Adjusts Fertilizer Law for Biosolids

At the end of May, both houses of the Maine legislature passed LD 1009, which provides for exemptions and flexibility for biosolids under the state's commercial fertilizer law and its labeling requirements. In public testimony in April, the bill was supported by biosolids management professionals, who found the existing law an obstacle to biosolids recycling. The legislation, which is likely to be signed into law soon, adds definitions for "biosolids," "packaged biosolids" and "unpackaged biosolids" to the Maine Commercial Fertilizer Law. Additionally, the bill exempts unpackaged and packaged biosolids derived primarily from residuals regulated by the Dept. of Environmental Protection from tonnage reports and from being registered before being offered for sale. [Details](#).

A Postcard from the WEF Residuals & Biosolids Conference, May, in Nashville

The annual WEF Residuals & Biosolids Conference was the usual stimulating blur of information and new and old friends - talks, exhibits, learning, chance & formal meetings, negotiating deals, slides, energy...

"Are you ready?!" With those words, Bob O'Dette was back, national conference keynote powerpoint speaker extraordinaire, welcoming us to his home town of Nashville, where he heads the state's biosolids program. A favorite line from his talk: "Biosolids are no more sludge than gasoline is crude oil."

Also memorable: Dr. Alan Rubin's discussion of the now-20-year-old Part 503 Rule (of which he was a lead author) and what it means today and where it is headed. Most interesting of his 11 points (speaking for himself; Dr. Rubin is retired from U. S. EPA):

1. EPA developed the rule over years, eventually getting the science right, thanks to lots of good input; now considers the job done; biosolids are relatively low risk; now other priorities prevail.
2. The most important aspects of the rule: monitoring, record-keeping,

and reporting ("we're keeping track").

3. Microconstituents are unlikely to prove to be any significant issue for biosolids.

4. Pathogens are a concern; stabilization has to be done right.

5. Odors are what get people upset about; prolonged exposure to molders can make people feel ill. Continue to research and improve on

ASSOCIATION
(nwbiosolids.org), the
OR Association of
Clean Water Agencies
has updated its
"Biosolids
Communication: [A
Media Guide](#)." A fine
resource.

NEWS from NEBRA
[Archived copies of
NEBRAMail](#) are
available from the News
page of the NEBRA
website.

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to the [sponsors](#) of
www.nwbiosolids.org!

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managers can make people feel it. Continue to research and improve on
this.

6. EPA compliance and enforcement is there for serious violations, but not
very active otherwise.

9. Does EPA have a preference of biosolids practice? Not now; used to
encourage land application.

11. The future? Optimistic. It's excellent how the diversity of uses of
biosolids has expanded. We're doing the job right.

Why won't EPA come out and clearly state that biosolids use on
soils is safe? Dr. Rubin: "It's political. But let's face it; if EPA is
letting you land apply biosolids routinely, that's their way of
saying it's safe."

In Brief / En bref...

Stowe navigates biosolids permit renewal. Through thoughtful, open
dialogue with its Selectboard, interested citizens, and state regulators, the
public works department of Stowe, VT has navigated through some public
discussions of the ongoing local biosolids recycling program. The Town
is receiving the biosolids management permit renewal it requested. But
earlier this year, it seemed that the renewal was in jeopardy, because of
concerns about microconstituents and other issues raised by a couple of
people from out of town. In the end, those raising the concerns didn't
even show up at the state's permit public hearing or the open house and
local discussion proactively put on by the Town. The Stowe Reporter
provided [details](#). See the description of Stowe's ATAD biosolids program
[here](#). **But it's not over...** some debate continues, stimulated by [one
concerned](#) Burlington citizen. NEBRA and its Vermont members are
responding....



Winston Pearce, P.
Eng., Chair of the
Greater Moncton
Sewerage
Commission, and
Conrad Allain, P.
Eng., Director of
Operations stand by
the NBP certification.

Biosolids EMS Programs Continue...

There are four organizations in the NEBRA region that continue, day
by day, to maintain and document excellence in biosolids management
through an environmental management system (EMS): the [Resource
Management Inc.](#) Residuals Management Facility, the [Lewiston-
Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority](#), the Casella Organics [Hawk
Ridge Compost Facility](#), and the [Greater Moncton Sewerage
Commission](#). Every year, they go through a tough audit process that
proves their commitment to going above and beyond regulations,
continually improving, ensuring sound environmental performance,
and developing relations with interested parties. NEBRA honors their
ongoing accomplishments!

The science and law concerning pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water resources are the focus of this report

["Alternative Strategies for Managing Pharmaceutical and Personal
Care Products in Water Resources."](#) Gabriel Eckstein and Dr. George
William Sherk summarize the known science related to the impacts of
PPCPs. They consider and propose possible alternative mechanisms
to prevent PPCPs from entering the environment. There is an
informative companion website for the project at
www.micropollutants.org. NEBRA continues to track research and

developments regarding microconstituents in biosolids; see summary [here](#). Contact the NEBRA office for further information.

Compost Fire Burns for weeks at Hornsby Bend Composting Facility near Austin, TX. [Spontaneous combustion](#) was blamed for the blaze that broke out on February 25th, reported KUVE News from Austin. Some of the biosolids compost blend destined to become "Dillo Dirt" became charred in the fire. High winds and the heat generated by the compost fueled the fires until March 22, [reported](#) the Austin Water Authority, which did an excellent job of keeping the community informed. Although people complained about odors, the media noted the unfortunate loss of what is locally considered a valuable resource. Earlier, a [Slate article](#) had noted the use of Dillo Dirt, noting the benefits of recycling biosolids.

WEAO Award to Lystek.... In April, Lystek International of Cambridge, Ontario (a new member of NEBRA), received an award from the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO). Shirley Anne Smyth, coordinator for the WEAO Residuals and Biosolids Management Committee, stated; "The Lystek process demonstrates sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technologies for managing residuals and biosolids, technology with potential for use in many locations, operational proof of performance, improvement of biosolids handling and nutrient recovery and improvement of biosolids quality for beneficial use."

Synagro Reorganizes - Sells all of its \$455 Million in Assets to EQT Infrastructure II. Long time NEBRA member and biosolids management leader, Synagro is reorganizing, but will continue operations to support its more than 600 customers across the US. All Synagro facilities are operating as usual, according to the company's [website](#). Under the sale, Synagro will retain its name, and operations will continue as normal with just a new owner. EQT Infrastructure II is a group of leading private equity funds with investment in Northern Europe, Asia, and the United States.

The Journal of Water Resources and Protection will be issuing a **special edition on Biosolids Land Application: Implications for Water Resources**. They are currently inviting biosolids researchers and authors to submit papers with the intent to gather the most current state of the art information concerning biosolids from around the world. The due date for submissions is July 28, 2013. More information can be found on the scrip [website](#). Questions and

inquiries can be directed to the [editorial assistant](#).

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