



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

## The North East Residuals & Biosolids Conference

Don't miss out. Abstracts due now. Be in Springfield, MA Oct. 16 -18. [More...](#)

May 15, 2019

### EVENTS...

#### PFAS Sampling Training

June 26, 2019  
Franklin Training Center  
Franklin, NH  
free for NH SQC holders

[Details & Registration](#)

[More events...](#)

### CHECK IT OUT...

#### "We have found a gas well in the middle of Brooklyn."

That's how New York City DEP is viewing its [latest renewable energy project](#): biomethane from the Newtown Creek anaerobic digesters.

[Rome, NY is closer to major co-digestion and electricity production.](#)

**Go St. Cloud!** Liquid land application has served this Mississippi River region well for decades, and now St. Cloud biosolids will be Class A and reduced in volume. [This Lystek video](#) shows St. Cloud's fine facilities and land application operations. St. Cloud is also [certified for its Biosolids Management Program](#) (EMS) by the NBP.

[Welcome "Poo" & "Pee," Metro Vancouver's new mascots.](#)

[Restoring volcanic cone landscapes with biosolids in New Zealand.](#)

**EPA awards grants supporting food waste diversion and anaerobic digestion.**

**Challenges to Florida biosolids continue**, this time by [allegations of illness](#) (officials find [no link](#)) and [bills in the Legislature](#) (including [one that is transmogrifying](#)). But several bills have been defeated, including the partial bans (HB 405 and SB 1278).

**Odor complaints can increase because of increased awareness, not increased odors**, as [seen around a VT landfill expansion proposal](#).

**Annie Ropeik of NH Public Radio (left below) toured the Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility** in April. Superintendent Sarita Croce and Chief Operator Leo Gaudette (right) provided all the details. Ms. Ropeik is thorough in developing background and understanding of the [myriad topics she covers](#).



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### THANK YOU!

### NEWS from NEBRA

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



### NEBRA Welcomes New Executive Director

Janine Burke-Wells is the new Executive Director of NEBRA. The announcement was made at the beginning of May by NEBRA President Tom Schwartz (Woodard and Curran) after a 5-month search process and interviews with several outstanding, experienced finalists for the position. Burke-Wells has been Executive Director of the Warwick, RI Sewer Authority since 2008 and a recent President of NEWEA.

[More...](#)

### Phosphorus Sustainability Challenge

#### Pledge to reduce your P footprint.

How can your operations use phosphorus more efficiently and release less to water? At its annual forum April 5th in Washington, DC, the [Phosphorus Sustainability Alliance](#) announced the Phosphorus Sustainability Challenge, a call to action for organizations of any size and type to publicly commit to lower their phosphorus footprints. Wastewater treatment and biosolids management are opportunities for phosphorus recycling.

Through this challenge, the Alliance and its many stakeholders (including NEBRA) are raising awareness about the role of phosphorus in global food security and water quality. This is the conundrum: as a key ingredient in fertilizer and animal feed, a sustainable phosphorus supply is essential to meeting the growing global demand for food. Meanwhile, phosphorus is a devastating pollutant that degrades water quality in rivers, streams, lakes and coastal oceans.

Many organizations work hard to make phosphorus (P) use more sustainable. The Phosphorus Sustainability Challenge provides a platform where they will receive public recognition for their leadership and see how their own efforts contribute to larger scale sustainability impacts.

[More...](#)

### How Are Biosolids & Manures Regulated?

#### A new database of regulations provides details.

States and provinces across the U. S. and Canada regulate biosolids and manures very differently and in a variety of ways. No two jurisdictions are the same. The complexity and diversity of regulations makes managing biosolids and manures more challenging. According to the Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance, this results in barriers to efficient, protective, sustainable recycling of phosphorus and the other nutrients and organic matter in these materials.

The Alliance has created an online database of state and provincial manure and biosolids regulations, including summaries of each jurisdiction's regulations and links to key documents. The details are being quality checked through final reviews by state regulators.

According to Rebecca Muenich, who provided an overview of the project at the Alliance's annual forum March 5th in Washington, DC, "the project is useful for understanding the regulatory landscape and the impacts on how manure and biosolids are managed, which influences P losses. We hope this will help move toward more consistent regulations."

The Alliance expects to make the database available online later this year.

### In Brief / en bref...

#### The FOG Clears at York, Maine

Travis Jones of York Sewer District uses Lego constructions as metaphors for building a program to address FOG – fats, oils, and grease. As in other communities, the southern Maine coastal resort town of York has been plagued by its share of sewer overflows caused by FOG blockages. Jones spent the past couple of years updating the town's sewer ordinance (which was last updated in 1976) and developing robust, enforceable FOG capture requirements for local restaurants. In an entertaining presentation showing many Lego constructions of various complexities, he stressed that a FOG program can be simple or complex – and both are effective. The marketing materials, forms, and enforcement tools he developing for York are models that he gladly shares with anyone.

**VT Passes New PFAS Bill, S.49:** After the Vermont House toned down S. 49, a Senate bill related to regulating PFAS, the revised bill was accepted by the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor. It requires all drinking water utilities to test for PFAS by December 1, 2019 and the Agency of Natural Resources to consider regulating PFAS together as a class or subclass; propose regulation of certain PFAS as a class or subclass; develop a plan for statewide investigation of PFAS sources; evaluate contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in landfill leachate; and, at the Agency's discretion, to require monitoring of any discharges of PFAS to ensure meeting public health advisories.

#### PFAS Update: Biosolids & Septage Management Affected by Strict Limits in New England

NEBRA has been advancing understanding of PFAS related to wastewater and biosolids for the past two years. "But, this spring, the issue of regulating PFAS in biosolids and other residuals, such as septage, has reached a critical level in northern New England," said Ned Beecher, NEBRA's Project Lead. [More...](#)



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