



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

November 5, 2019

EVENTS...

The New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA)'s [annual conference](#) and exhibit is January 26th through the 29th. The room block is now open at Boston Marriott Copley Place.

The Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) is hosting a conference titled **The Science of PFAS: Public Health & The Environment**, March 31st through April 1st in Framingham, Mass.

The Water Environment Federation has called for abstracts for the **2020 Residuals & Biosolids Conference**, March 31st through April 3rd, in Minneapolis, MN.

National **Water Week 2020** will be held April 26th through May 2nd in Washington D.C.

[More events...](#)

Employment Opportunity:

NEWMOA is looking for a [project manager](#).

Application deadline is November 15th.

CHECK IT OUT...

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has issued a fact sheet for wastewater operators titled "[Interim Best Management Practices for Emerging Contaminants in Certified Biosolids](#)".

The Connecticut [Interagency Task Force on PFAS](#) issued a [PFAS Action Plan](#) in early October. on EPA's proposed PFAS analytical method.

Australia is investing \$3.9 Million to establish the [Australian Research Council Training Centre for the Transformation of Australian Biosolids Resource](#) with the goal of becoming a world leader in managing and recycling biosolids.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) continues to urge clean water professionals to voice their concern about proposed federal PFAS regulations. NACWA's [website](#) has plenty of resources available. The Water Environment Federation's [Water Advocates](#) page also makes it easy for members to advocate for sensible PFAS regulations.

The NEBRA Member Survey is open. Please take 10 minutes to help us better serve you.

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THANK YOU!

NEWS from NEBRA

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



Keynote Speaker Karen Schuett of Livestock Water Recycling (photo by Charlie Tyler)

Another Successful Residuals & Biosolids Conference

The 2019 conference collaboration with NEWEA's Residuals Management Committee was a great success on all fronts. NEBRA's thanks go out to Committee Chair Natalie Sierra, Vice-Chair Eric Spargamino and NEWEA's Program Director Janice Moran for all their hard work in preparing for this year's conference. Thanks to all the moderators and presenters; the program content was excellent as judged by the questions and conversations that followed each one. Thanks also go to all the sponsors.

The conference, which was held in Springfield, Massachusetts, started out with a Poo & Brew event hosted by NEWEA's Young Professionals Committee. The Poo part was held at the Westfield water resource recovery facility where over 70 people gathered for a tour hosted by Jeff Gamelli and Ken Gagnon. Even the Mayor of Westfield was there to welcome us! [More on 2019 conference...](#)

NEBRA Files "Friend of the Court" Brief in New Hampshire Case

On October 17, the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) filed an Amicus Curiae brief in support of the Superior Court case against the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) with respect to specific public meeting and input requirements that were bypassed during the rule making process. The filing action was approved earlier that morning by a vote of the NEBRA members at its annual meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Commonly known as a "Friend of the Court" filing, the brief supports the claim that NHDES did not follow proper administrative procedures in setting the new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS in drinking water. [More...](#)



End-of-Year Donations Sought to Wrap Up PFAS Work in 2019

NEBRA's work on PFAS issues related to wastewater, biosolids, and residuals is funded mainly by contributions to the "PFFund". Thanks to all the support and involvement from across the continent, NEBRA has been able to complete a number of projects including data/research collection, guidance documents, and compilation and organization of an enormous amount of information and documentaiton related to PFAS. Contributors to the PFFund have access to all this information! However, the fast pace of the expanding PFAS issue has stretched NEBRA's budget past its limits for 2019 and we are seeking donations by December 31st to help us close our budget in the black.

To finish out 2019, NEBRA intends to organize and package all our resrouces for easy access and use by stakeholders nationwide: reorganizing our PFAS website pages, creating topic areas and making the most pertinent documents more prominent and readily available. NEBRA is also looking to publish the PFAS soil leaching modeling efforts completed by Stone Environmental. Finally, we are completing an upgrade of our PFAS and biosolids/residuals literature and bibliography.

NEBRA needs \$15,000 to close the budget gap and complete the 2019 efforts. We are also now seeking PFFund contribution pledges for work in 2020, with a goal of \$45,000. For a detailed Scope of Work, [download](#) from the website where you can also find the [pledge form](#).

NEBRA Members Team Up on Phosphorus Innovation Challenge

The Village of Essex Junction Water Resource Recovery Facility in Vermont has teamed up with Chittenden Solid Waste District as well as the University of Vermont, Efficiency VT and James Morris Associates to test an innovative combination of technologies to remove phosphorus from wastewater. In 2018, the team received a \$45,000 grant from the State of Vermont's [Phosphorus Innovation Challenge](#) program being run by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The goal of the Challenge is to find market-based innovative technologies to remove phosphorus from manure and other waste streams and make the recovered phosphorus available for beneficial reuse, for example, as a fertilizer. [More...](#)

In Brief / en bref...

Lawsuit Against Two Maine Sewer Districts and PFAS Manufacturers Dismissed but Further Legal Action Still Possible

On October 29, 2019, the York County, Maine Superior Court accepted the request of plaintiffs Fred and Laura Stone and Stoneridge Farm, to dismiss the case they had filed in late December 2018. According to reports and court documents, the Stones' lawyers, who filed the original lawsuit against 3M Company, other PFAS manufacturers, and two local sewer districts - Kennebunk and Ogunquit - had a conflict of interest. Reportedly, the law firm also represented a successor company to an industrial facility. That facility also provided material placed on the Stoneridge Farm in the 1980s, according to Maine DEP records. When the lawsuit was filed, it contained no mention of the industrial material applied at the Farm, even though Maine DEP's investigations of PFOS contamination especially pointed to that material as a likely source of contamination.

After the initial lawsuit was filed, the plaintiffs never served papers on the two sewer districts and requested time extensions from the court. In the spring, a different law firm, Berman and Simmons, took over the [case for the plaintiffs](#) and, on October 25th, filed a motion dismissing the case, which the court affirmed. However, this does not mean the end of legal action. It is quite possible that the Stones, who have been impacted both personally and in their farm business, will file a new legal action that may or may not target municipal biosolids and/or PFAS manufacturers and users. Related documents can be found on [NEBRA's website](#).

Sludge Survey for Massachusetts Now Complete

NEBRA has completed its survey of sludge generation and management by water resource recovery facilities in Massachusetts. The work was done for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center with a focus on potential regional facilities for managing sludge and generating energy. The report can be found on the [MACEC](#) and NEBRA websites.

NEBRA Board Member Lise LeBlanc Garners Major Environmental Award

NEBRA Board Member Lise LeBlanc, President and Founder of [LP Consulting](#), is being awarded the 2019 Mobius Award of Environmental Excellence Hall of Fame for Nova Scotia, Canada. According to an email sent to the NEBRA office, the award goes to an individual with a demonstrated record of ongoing commitment to the environment, leadership in recycling and diverting waste from landfill to a valuable resource. The email goes on to say that Lise feels very honored, excited and grateful for the award. She thanked her team who made it possible, specifically her partner Misty Crony, and industry partners and agricultural clients who "stayed the course in wanting to make a difference." Congratulations Lise!

