

June 27, 2023

Canada Publishes Report on PFAS and Food Inspection Agency Moves to Set Standards for Fertilizers

On May 19th, the Canadian government published two separate actions related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The first was a draft [State-of-PFAS in Canada report](#) from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada. The second was a [proposal](#) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to limit PFOS in biosolids imported or sold in Canada as commercial fertilizers to less than 50 parts per billion (ppb).

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Photo Credit: B. Polichetti

Several Northeast States Publish Results of PFAS Testing in Biosolids and Wastewater

Most of the New England states have been conducting studies to understand the levels of PFAS in wastewaters and sludges/biosolids. Most recently, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine have issued reports on the findings from their sampling and analysis efforts. Here is a summary from each of those states.

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EPA Updates Guidance Document on Pathogen and Vector Attraction in Sewage Sludge



Photo Credit: B. Polichetti

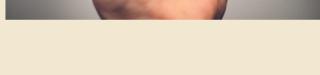
Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a major update to its guidance on [Pathogens and Vector Attraction in Sewage Sludge](#) (see [Pathogens and Vector Attraction in Sewage Sludge | Science Inventory | US EPA](#)).

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Residuals Recycling: A Polymer Made from Seafood Residuals

Anna Meyer for NEBRA

Did you know it's possible to clean water with shells? Crustacean shells are an abundant byproduct of the seafood industry. But they needn't be dumped in the ocean en masse, where they cause environmental problems, or landfilled.



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En Bref -- In Brief

DEC interim guidelines for PFOA and PFOS in biosolids recycled:

PFOA or PFOS in biosolids, dry weight (ug/kg or ppb)*	Action Required for Biosolids that are Recycled
20 or less	No action required
> 20 but <50	Additional sampling required. DEC will take appropriate steps to restrict recycling after one year if the PFOS or PFOA levels are not reduced to below 20 ppb or less.
50 or greater	DEC will take action to prohibit recycling until PFOS or PFOA concentration is below 20 ppb.

* In addition to dry weight/biosolids, DEC may require analyses using the SPLP (Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure) and use those results to determine whether the biosolids source can be recycled.

New York State Proposes Limits for PFAS in Biosolids

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) will hold an informational webinar on June 29th at 10 am EST to review its Draft Program Policy 7 under the NYDEC Division of Materials Management (DMM7). It is considered an Interim Strategy for the Control of PFAS Compost, specifically regarding biosolids recycling in New York State. [REGISTER HERE](#). The DMM7 mirrors the approach taken by Michigan and other states to establish a limit, below which biosolids may continue to be land applied. The proposed number is 20 parts per billion for PFOS and PFOA. Biosolids with concentrations greater than 20 ppb will be required to take additional steps and biosolids with concentrations at 50 ppb or above cannot be recycled to land in New York State. The interim policy is intended to reduce risks associated with recycling biosolids while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency works on risk-based standards. The deadline to submit comments on DMM7 is **July 10th**. Comments can be submitted by email to OrganicRecycling@dec.ny.gov. Please include "Comments on Draft DMM7" in the subject line of the email.

NEWMOA Develops Model PFAS Legislation, Still Seeking Comments

The Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) has developed Draft Model Legislation for addressing PFAS to encourage consistency across the region when it comes to regulating PFAS in the environment. NEWMOA hosted a [webinar](#) on May 10th to review the proposal which was modeled after mercury reduction legislation of the past. The goals of this draft model legislation are to:

- Reduce/eliminate the use of PFAS in consumer products to the extent feasible;
- Identify and implement source reduction programs;
- Ensure that the substitutes for PFAS in products are safer and that there are no regrettable substitutes;
- Coordinate product disclosure, labeling, bans, phase-outs, source reduction, and end-of-life collection on a multi-state basis;
- Help consumers identify products containing PFAS and learn how to properly handle them;
- Provide regulated entities with regulatory certainty.

The [Model Legislation](#) is 15 pages and includes various definitions. It also includes a "menu" of legislative options including establishing an Interstate Clearinghouse for information on PFAS, notification requirements, restrictions on product sales, labeling, producer responsibility, and even procurement preferences for state/local governments. NEWMOA welcomes comment on all aspects of the draft model legislation. The public comment period for the Draft Model Legislation is open until **June 29, 2023**, midnight Eastern. Submit your comments and suggested edits to publiccomments@newmoa.org.

Maine Legislature Passes Measure to Alleviate Emergency Situation with Sludge

The Maine Legislature's Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee took action this session to help alleviate the impacts on sludge disposal at the State's main landfill by increasing bulking materials available to mix with wet wastes. The legislation, "An Act to Facilitate the Management of Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at the State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill," designated [LD718](#), passed out of ENR unanimously. It also passed the Legislature by the two-thirds majority required for an emergency measure. The Governor signed it on June 23 and it becomes effective immediately. This new law changes the rules for two years and is only a temporary measure but will allow for continued safe landfilling of biosolids in Maine -- the only option currently available in the State. It also requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate options for and develop recommendations regarding state regulation of biosolids generated from wastewater treatment plants. The legislative change has already reduced the amount of biosolids being shipped to New Brunswick, according to sources.

2023 Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference Call for Abstracts

The Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference, a joint venture of NEBRA and the New England Water Environment Association, will be returning to Portsmouth, New Hampshire on November 1st and 2nd. Stay tuned for more details on this can't-miss conference event. Right now, we are seeking abstracts for presentation and actively seeking a locale for a tour. Topics of interest include Regionalization Challenges and Success, Research Projects, Solids Treatment Technologies for Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Residuals Master Planning, Solids Handling and Co-Digestion, Thermal Treatment Technologies and Regulating Residuals/Biosolids End Uses. The deadline to [submit](#) is fast-approaching: **June 30th!**

Minnesota Study Shows Major Cost of End-of-Pipe PFAS Removal

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released a [study](#) showing just how unaffordable the costs of treating PFAS in wastewater will be. The MPCA report says that removing and destroying PFAS from water and biosolids leaving Minnesota's wastewater treatment facilities could cost between \$14 billion and \$28 billion over 20 years. Other significant findings included:

- PFAS can be bought for \$50 - \$1,000 per pound (according to MPCA estimates), but costs between \$2.7 million and \$18 million per pound to remove and destroy from municipal wastewater, depending on facility size.
- Small wastewater treatment facilities would face per-pound costs over six times greater than large facilities, due to economies of scale.
- New "short-chain" types of PFAS are more difficult and up to 70% more expensive to remove and destroy compared to old "long-chain" PFAS.

CHECK IT OUT!!

[Funny moment robot chases 5ft alligator inside Florida sewage system - YouTube](#)

"Love comes unexpectedly sometimes, even in a sewer. Given the right conditions."
[Match Me Abroad: Harold 'Love' in a Sewer \(Exclusive\)](#) (people.com).

[Interview with a professional sewage diver | Boing Boing](#)

The world depends on a collection of strange items: U.S. Government Warehouse that includes "Domestic sludge" sample. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esQyYGezS7c>

[Podcast Episode 11 | Make Me Care About Wastewater | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)



Upcoming Events

July 5: EPA Science Advisory Board Meeting, [Biosolids Panel](#), 1 to 4 pm EST
 July 14: [North East Digestion Roundtable](#) on Enabling Nutrient Recovery in Digestate Management Applications
 July 18-20: Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association [Summer Symposium](#), Binghamton NY
 July 28: Lunch & Learn About: [Bioforcetech 2.0: OurCarbon](#)

For a complete listing of Events, go to www.nebiosolids.org/events.

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