NACWA Biosolids Committee Meeting

August 1, 2013
NACWA Biosolids Committee

Dave Taylor
Chair
Director of Special Projects
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Update on EPA Activities

Rick Stevens
Biosolids Program Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
What EPA has been doing with limited budget and resources…

- Finalizing a subset of refined risk assessments on TNSSS pollutants
- Ten pollutants (i.e., barium, beryllium, manganese, molybdenum, silver, 4-chloroaniline, fluoranthene, pyrene, nitrate, nitrite) are undergoing management review, to be followed by peer review
Develop / refine scientific tools available for screening risks for pollutants found in biosolids

Reevaluate dioxins utilizing a new IRIS human health benchmark (RfD) and arsenic using a new cancer slope (when finalized)

Comply with statutory requirements of CWA via biennial reviews
Revising Biosolids Action Plan and Research Strategy

Focus on recognizing biosolids as a renewable resource that is valuable in the context of growing needs for renewable energy and sustainability

- Committing appropriate resources
- Supporting the development of regulations and standards that promote the renewable resource value of biosolids, while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment
- Promoting public awareness
- Partnering with regulatory agencies, municipal agencies, and professional organizations to promote research and development
Sewage Sludge Incineration

• Update on NACWA Legal Challenge
  – Oral Arguments – May 3
  – Awaiting decision

• Rule Compliance and Technical Issues
  – Members working to evaluate what upgrades are necessary to comply
  – Delays in FIP and SIP development leading to uncertainty
  – Technical, other issues (e.g., operator certification) raising questions among SSIs
FDA Food Safety Regulations

- Proposed “produce rule” appears to include reasonable, science-based standards for biosolids use in the production of produce

- Recognizes and relies on the safety of current biosolids regulations and practices, such as the federal EPA 40 CFR Part 503 rule

- Comments Due – September 16
Nutrient Management

NRCS 590 Management Standard

- Voluntary guide for participants in NRCS farm programs
- Revision issued in 2012
- States were to tailor their programs accordingly by 2013
- Has become a de facto regulation in some parts of the country
  - Biosolids permits requiring NRCS conservation plans based on 590…which includes phosphorus management (P Index) requirements
- All phosphorus is not the same
Nutrient Management

USDA Nutrient Tracking Tool

- Currently does not include biosolids
- Potential alternative to NRCS 590?
Update on Kern County Developments

Jimmy Slaughter
Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
NBP Update and Discussion

Lisa McFadden
Senior Program Manager – Water Science & Engineering Center
Water Environment Federation
NBP Program Update
Lisa McFadden
Water Environment Federation
Fostering Partnerships
Continue to Collaborate

Broadening awareness of the Biosolids Management Program (BMP)
Successfully transitioned to WEF’s Water, Science & Engineering Center, the NBP continues to:

- Advance best practices
- Advance information exchange, education, & training
- Develop management systems that go beyond regulations & manage environmental impacts
- Help WRRFs do “better than promised,” “set the bar high,” and “continually improve”
- Assist biosolids agencies in gaining public confidence
Communication is key to successful outcomes

“to educate,”
NBP Biosolids Management Program Training:

Biosolids Management 101

Video presentation: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). This presentation provides an overview of biosolids management and the role of the biosolids program within your facility.

Discussion: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions about biosolids management.

Biosolids Management 201

Video presentation: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). This presentation discusses the various components of biosolids management and how they interact to ensure compliance with regulations.

Discussion: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions about biosolids management.

Biosolids Management 301

Video presentation: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). This presentation focuses on the technical aspects of biosolids management, including sampling, testing, and quality control.

Discussion: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions about biosolids management.

Biosolids Management 401

Video presentation: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). This presentation provides a summary of the key concepts covered throughout the training program, including best practices and case studies.

Discussion: \textit{Understanding Your Local Biosolids Program} (30 minutes). Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions about biosolids management.

Questions and Answers: Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback from the facilitators.

Closing Remarks: Participants will have the opportunity to share their insights and experiences and receive feedback from the facilitators.

Contact Information:

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The NBP Biosolids Management Program (BMP/EMS) Continual Improvement Cycle

**Plan**
- Critical Control Points
- Legal and Other Requirements
- Goals and Objectives
- Interested Parties Input

**Policy**
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Training
- Communications
- Operational Control of CCPs
- Documentation/Document Control
- Emergency Preparedness

**Check**
- Monitoring and Measurement
- Nonconformances and Actions
- Biosolids EMS Performance Report
- Internal EMS Audit

**Review / Act**
- Management Review
BMP Recognition Program

▪ Tier 1: Bronze-Level Recognition
  ▪ Commitment to the NBP Code of Good Practice
  ▪ Acknowledged goal of implementing the 17 NBP BMP Elements
  ▪ Obtaining independent verification of the organization’s BMP.

▪ Tier 2: Silver-Level Recognition
  ▪ Organization has implemented the 17 BMP Elements
  ▪ Organization has completed an NBP approved audit, recognizing the BMP as ready for a third party verification audit.

▪ Tier 3: Gold-Level Recognition
  ▪ Organization has completed an independent, third party BMP verification audit
  ▪ Organization has committed to conducting annual internal audits.

▪ Tier 4: Platinum-Level Certification
  ▪ Organization has completed third party BMP verification audit and at least one third-party interim audit
  ▪ Organization commits to a regular schedule of third party interim audits and internal audits.
Supporting an organic solids information hub

Filling the gaps
Continued efforts in NBP information management

- Create easy and timely access to organic solids management information
- Act as a referral for sources of both knowledge and “response” information
- Identify primary sources of biosolids and other organic solids information and create linkages to them.
- Establish proactive “push” capability for regular dissemination of organic solids information, and examining options for creating additional mechanisms for dissemination of information
Determining Sustainability Metrics

Among those identified in “Enabling the Future:”

- The national biosolids recycling rate (calculated in the same ways as MSW recycling rates)
- The amount of energy generated (thermal, electrical, and kinetic combined into a common unit)
- The number of certified land applicers (or other measures of biosolids-specific training)
Program Goals

- Promoting organic solids management as renewable resource operations
- Fostering partnerships
- Supporting BMP
- Supporting an organic solids information hub
- Addressing the regulatory and policy framework
State of the Science Symposia

• The last biosolids state of the science symposium was held in 2004

• Moving forward with plans to hold the next symposium in conjunction with WEFTEC 2015 in Chicago
  – WEF has offered space at no cost
  – NACWA will be engaged and may provide TAF to support speaker travel

• Lakhwinder Hundal with MWRD of Greater Chicago is leading up the effort to put the symposium program together
Local/Regional Issues Roundtable

• Improving Communication among Local, State, Regional and National Biosolids Organizations
  – ABBA Group
  – National level coordination

• Developments/updates from around the country…

  Texas
  – TCEQ has opened a rule-making process (including four public meetings across the state) on proposed rule changes following numerous complaints from residents surrounding a Class A application site. Meetings begin in August.
Local/Regional Issues Roundtable

Washington State

- Dept. of Ecology appeal of Wakiakum County ban (upheld once already by the courts) on land application of Class B biosolids
  - Ordinance is in conflict with state law, which defines biosolids as a valuable organic soil amendment
  - Still in briefing stage; municipalities/NBMA considering filing as Amicus
- Citing of biosolids composting facility in Kittitas County
  - Primarily yard waste/food waste composting, but fears about biosolids (don’t know what’s in it, inadequate regulations, etc.) are being used by opponents
Local/Regional Issues Roundtable

• Update on Gilbert Nuisance Suit
• Other Updates?
Other Business

• Committee Co-Chair – Incineration Focus
• Next Committee Meeting
• Other?