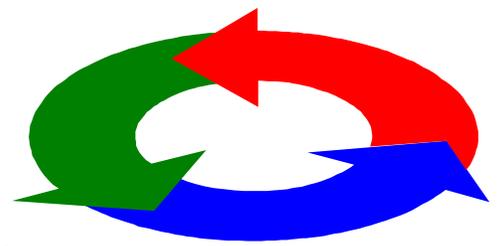


Amendments



Improving Awareness & Advocacy of the Michigan Biosolids Program

Volume 6, First Quarter

January, 2005

DEQ News

MICHIGAN BIOSOLIDS DVD

Jim Johnson, State Biosolids Coordinator

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is in the process of development of an informational DVD on Biosolids recycling in Michigan. The DVD is targeted at the general audiences who have little knowledge about wastewater treatment or biosolids. The DVD shows some of the ways Michigan's waters are used and how the need to protect those waters leads to the generation of biosolids, then goes on to show how biosolids can be recycled while still protecting Michigan's water resources. It is hoped that the DVD will be ready for distribution in early 2005.

Biosolid News

BAHRAM ZAMANI AT CRANBROOK

Bahram Zamani, Lansing District Biosolids staff, attended the three-day event at the Cranbrook Institute of Science on November 26 - 28, 2004. "I feel that it was a great experience for me as well as a great success for our Program promotion. I had larger crowds coming to my sessions on Saturday and Sunday to obtain information about recycling of wastewater and land application of Biosolids," said Zamani. There were four 45-minute sessions: 1:15 PM, 2:00 PM, 2:45 PM and 3:30 PM on each day.

Comparison of manure and Biosolids made the subject more interesting, as Bahram pointed out to his audience about incident in Walkerton, Ontario, Canada that a few people died from municipal water contaminated with E-Coli 0157-H7 from manure, but none so far from Biosolids.

Bahram showed a draft version of the new DVD of Michigan Biosolids, which was recently developed by Jim Johnson and Greg Merricle of MDEQ. "I was able to combine it with my talk as well as the Biological demonstration of water quality (*Ceriodaphnia Dubia* & Fish) from the Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory (ATL), which Mrs. Diana Butler of MDEQ kindly provided me. This made the 45-minutes of my presentation for each session very interesting and less tiresome specifically to many children who attended these events," said Zamani.

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Bahram does not have an exact count of the number of the people who attended the sessions, however, he estimates about 12-15 people per session, with on two occasions some people were standing, since there were not enough space to fit all chairs.

BIOSOLIDS SEMINAR

The Michigan Biosolids Team is in the final stages of planning for the 2005 Biosolids Seminar, March 2-3, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. The theme of the seminar is "Small Plants, Big Issues." The seminar agenda is located on page two (2). Seminar brochures will be mailed out by mid-January 2005 or call Amanda at the MWEA office at 517.641.7377 or 866.441.7377 if you have not received a brochure by February 1, 2005.

Hope to see you there!

National News

NATIONAL BIOSOLIDS PARTNERSHIP'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS) PROGRAM

What is the National Biosolids Partnership?

In 1997, the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formed the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). The NBP is a not-for-profit alliance whose purpose is to endorse environmentally sound and sustainable biosolids management practices that build public confidence within local communities.

What is an EMS?

An EMS is a management framework for reducing environmental impacts and improving organizational performance over time. Implementing an EMS is voluntary; therefore, the EMS framework can be adapted to support the needs, priorities, and circumstances of the implementing organization. Typically, an EMS is used to support continual improvement of activities relevant to environmental performance by helping an organization identify and act on opportunities for improvements in the following areas:

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MWEA Biosolids Seminar Agenda

MARCH 2ND, 2005

- 12 noon - 1 p.m. Check in and registration (Amway Hotel North Concourse)
- 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Facilities tours: City of Zeeland CWP, Zeeland Farm Services Soy Oil Processing Facility, Bradford Dairy
- 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Welcoming reception and vendor networking (Amway Imperial Ballroom)

12 noon - 1:00 p.m. LUNCH (PANTLIND ROOM)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANTLIND ROOM

- 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. LAND AVAILABILITY FOR BIOSOLIDS APPLICATION
Steve Mahoney, Michigan Department of Agriculture
- 1:35 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. SMALL PLANT STORAGE ISSUES
Steve Hughes Superintendent Howell WWTP
- 2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. SMALL PLANT BIOSOLIDS ENGINEERING ISSUES
Rich Grant P.E., Fleis & VandenBrink

MARCH 3RD, 2005

IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. Registration
- 8:20 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. CEC requirements and MWEA: Jerry Harte
- 8:30 a.m. - 8:40 a.m. The "Baron of Biosolids". Ed Klopf, City of Midland passes the crown on to new royalty!
- 8:40 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. MDEQ PICKLES, POLICE, POOP AND POLICY
Jim Johnson MDEQ; Mike Worm, MDEQ
- 9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. NEWS FROM THE FIELD
Myron Erickson and Kim Hackbardt present an update of recent Biosolids issues happening in Michigan.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. VENDOR NETWORKING AND PRODUCT RESEARCH
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. CURRENT AND FUTURE SEPTAGE RECEIVING
Fred Eyer P.E., Prein & Newhof: An overview of current septage receiving practices throughout Michigan
- 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon THE PRICE OF CRUISING ON TOWNSHIPS
Dan Wolz, City of Wyoming Clean Water Plant
When deciding on a cruise line for your final biosolids destination be sure to check the fine print of the agreement.

IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- 1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. LAGOON CLEANING
Duane Dressler, Village of Sebewaing and Kevin Chandler, Inland Services
- 1:35 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. DIGESTER CLEANING
Chuck Hines, St. Clair WWTP and Tom Jensen, Inland Services
- 2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. INDUSTRY INPUTS INTO SMALL PLANTS
Mike Rampanelli, Leprino Foods
- 2:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m. VENDOR NETWORKING AND PRODUCT RESEARCH

IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- 3:10 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. PANEL QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
Kevin Chandler, Inland Services; Don Popma, Synagro Midwest; Joe Goergen Genesee County ARTP; Chuck Porter, Farmer; Matt Campbell, MDEQ; Mike Person, MDEQ
- 3:50 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. DOOR PRIZES AND ADJOURNMENT

- Product and service quality
- Regulatory compliance
- Risk management and preparedness
- Credibility with stakeholders
- Record-keeping, documentation and information management

The EMS approach is based on the "plan-do-check-act" continual improvement cycle of total quality management (TQM) and involves a set of planning activities, procedures, performance monitoring and review to allow and organization to improve business processes over time.

There are internationally recognized standards for EMS such as ISO 14001. The NBP has taken these standard approaches and tailored them to create an EMS that is well-suited to the priorities and needs of wastewater utilities and biosolids programs

What is the NBP's Environmental Management System Program?

The NBP has sponsored several initiatives designed to advance responsible biosolids management practices within the water quality profession with the goal of enhancing the environmental performance and public perception of biosolids management programs. The cornerstone of these initiatives has been the development and implementation of the NBP's National Environmental Management System (EMS) Program. The NBP strongly believes that wastewater agencies and their biosolids contractors will benefit from implementing an EMS as part of their overall management program.

Who is eligible to participate in the NBP's EMS Program?

Any public or privately operated wastewater treatment facility in the United States with a biosolids program and responsibility, either directly or indirectly, for the full biosolids value chain (pretreatment to final use and disposal of biosolids) is invited to participate in the NBP's voluntary EMS Program. The NBP hopes that its EMS approach will be adopted throughout the biosolids profession, by wastewater treatment utilities and their contractors involved in biosolids production and final use and disposal.

What are the goals of NBP's EMS Program?

The NBP's goals for developing an EMS program are the following:

- To endorse environmentally sound and sustainable biosolids management practices that build public confidence in local communities;
- To help program participants demonstrate to their communities that they are committed to go beyond meeting regulatory requirements and to explain how they are working to improve their environmental performance; and

- To help program participants involve their communities in defining improved performance or areas that still require attention.

What are the benefits of implementing an EMS for biosolids?

The potential benefits of adopting an EMS are numerous and include improved regulatory compliance, enhanced environmental performance, increased efficiency, reduced cost, pollution prevention, improved consistency and quality of biosolids materials, and improved relations with local communities.

What are the NBP Blueprint documents?

The NBP has created the following four Blueprint documents to assist biosolids organizations implement an EMS for Biosolids:

- *Code of Good Practice*: sets forth ten broad principles that govern the operation of sustainable biosolids management programs. Organizations that commit to the Code have pledged to "do the right thing."
- *EMS Elements*: define the specific expectations and requirements, grouped into 17 "elements," that the NBP believes to be important for ensuring that biosolids management activities are performed in an environmentally sound and publicly accepted manner. The *EMS Elements* define the specific expectations and requirements that an auditor will use to verify that an organization's environmental management system meets the NBP's EMS Program requirements.
- *Biosolids EMS Guidance Manual*: a "how to" document that provides guidance on the development and implementation of a biosolids EMS. It provides information on the NBP's program, its benefits, and a suggested approach, along with specific instructions about and examples of what an organization will need to do to achieve success.
- *National Manual of Good Practice*: a "how to" document that describes the full range of practices available to any facility wishing to implement an EMS for biosolids. The menu approach of the Manual encourages voluntary participation by allowing agencies to assemble the mixture of practices and procedures that are most appropriate for their individual agency. The Manual is available from the NBP and is intended to be used as a reference and guide on developing and implementing an EMS.
- The NBP has also created a Third Party Verification Auditor's Guidance. The purpose of the *Auditors Guidance* is to ensure that the requirements and processes of the NBP EMS Third Party Verification are clearly established and communicated, and to ensure that the EMS's of participating organizations are evaluated in a fair and consistent manner that corresponds with the expectations of the NBP. All of

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National News Cont'd

the information that participating organizations need to know about third party verification is included in the *Biosolids EMS Guidance Manual*.

What is the purpose of third party verification?

To support the goal of environmentally sound and publicly accepted biosolids management practices, the NBP has developed an independent, third party EMS verification component of its EMS Program. Organizations interested in receiving formal recognition of their EMS and of their participation in the NBP's biosolids EMS program must achieve verification of their EMS through the NBP's third party verification program. The third party verification program includes the following objectives:

- Ensure that the environmental management systems of participating biosolids organizations meet the expectations and requirements established by the NBP.
- Verify that EMS activities at participating organizations are being implemented in practice, as well as on paper.
- Assure environmentally sound performance of biosolids management practices.
- Increase public trust and confidence in biosolids management practices.

How is the NBP's EMS for Biosolids different than ISO 14001?

The EMS for Biosolids was derived from International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001 and contains many of the same elements. However, the EMS for Biosolids includes best management practices specific to biosolids and elements designed to enhance public participation and communication. As well, where ISO 14001 is designed to improve performance and reduce all environmental impacts associated with all managed activities, the EMS for Biosolids is focused on environmental impacts and continual improvement associated with all aspects of biosolids management activities.

What does participation in the NBP's EMS Program entail?

Biosolids organizations that wish to participate in the EMS Program and receive NBP recognition must complete the following steps:

- Sign a letter committing the organization to follow the NBP's Code of Good Practice
- Implement an EMS for Biosolids using the NBP Blueprint documents
- Apply for and successfully complete a third party EMS verification audit
- Operate the EMS for at least six months
- Conduct at least one internal EMS audit
- Apply for and successfully complete a third party EMS verification audit

Where can I find more information about the NBP's EMS Program?

More information about the NBP, its EMS Program, how to get involved, and staff contacts can be found on the NBP's website at <http://www.biosolids.org>.

Who locally is implementing the NBP's EMS Program?

The MWEA Ad Hoc Committee on EMS has been meeting for about two years. It formed to find out more about EMS and to explore ways of implementing EMS within the MWEA and its member agencies. Currently, there are four agencies pursuing a biosolids EMS working through the MWEA Ad Hoc committee and the NBP. They are Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Kalamazoo. Several other cities are considering becoming involved. Interested cities should contact Corky Overmyer at 616.456.4636 for details.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 13, 2005

Location: SCCMUA, Dewitt, MI

Topic: TBD

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Location: SCCMUA

Topic: TBD

MWEA Biosolids Seminar

March 2 - 3, 2005

Location: Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids

Theme: Small Plants, Big Issues

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Location: SCCMUA

Topic: TBD

For more information on the meeting, please contact Todd Wibright at (616) 457-0720.



This quarterly newsletter is a joint effort of the **Michigan Biosolids Team partnership**. It is designed to provide timely, relevant information about the beneficial use of biosolids. Submit information of interest or comments to:

[Steve Mahoney - mahoneys@michigan.gov](mailto:mahoneys@michigan.gov)
or telephone (517) 241-2508

Continued in next column

*New to the water environment profession?
Need help getting your feet wet?*



If so, please join us for the

The Lunch Series Seminars

*Sponsored by the Michigan Water Environment Associations
New Professionals Committee*

**"Wastewater Regs 101: What New Professionals Should Know
About Wastewater Regulations"**

by Fred Cowles of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber

Fred will give an introduction to the major regulations which govern the handling and treatment of wastewater. Part 1 will provide a review of the Federal Regulations, including the Clean Water Act. Part 2 will review the rules that we have in place within the State of Michigan

When:

Part 1: The Federal Rules—**Thursday, January 27** 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Part 2: The Michigan Rules—**Thursday, April 28** 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

lunch and presentations will begin at 11:45 am

Where: Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber Office

1515 Arboretum Drive

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Video-conferenced at the offices of FTC&H in Farmington Hills, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Select the location closest to you.

Cost: This lunch is \$5 to MWEA members and \$8 for non-members

RSVP: Jim at 616 464-3808 or jjflamming@ftch.com, 2 days prior to seminar