January 25, 2016

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TRAINING! EVENTS!

February 9 - Biosolids Training
Wells, Maine

A lot of what happens in a wastewater treatment plant impacts the quality of biosolids produced there. A new NEBRA and JETCC workshop will train operators to focus on the most critical process controls for ensuring biosolids quality. 6 training credit hours will be awarded. Register thru JETCC.

PA Supreme Court: Biosolids Use Is a "Normal Agricultural Activity"

In late December, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of biosolids management company Synagro and farmers who use biosolids, finding that biosolids recycling on farms is a "normal agricultural practice" and is therefore protected from untimely and burdensome litigation. The case, known as Gilbert v. Synagro, has been watched closely by biosolids managers and farmers, because it occurred in a large, agricultural state in the eastern U. S., where conflict over biosolids and other farming practices continue to fester in areas where suburban growth has spread into traditional farming areas. Right-To-Farm Acts exist in some form in most states. Municipalities everywhere are now clearly on notice that arbitrary ordinances interfering with agricultural uses of biosolids may be unlawful, depending on the specific provisions of a state's right-to-farm law.

More...

NEBRA Recognized by Biosolids Management Award

On Wednesday, January 27th, at its Annual Conference, NEWEA will present its annual Biosolids Management Award to NEBRA’s Ned Beecher, who has been Executive Director since the organization’s inception in 1998.
Incinerator Operator Training
NEIWPC, JETCC, and NEBRA will offer a special regional training course for sewage sludge incinerator operators to meet the new U.S. EPA air regulations that become effective March 21, 2016. Date & location TBA. Contact NEBRA for details.

Northeast Digestion Roundtable
NEBRA is collaborating with NH DES, with input from U.S. EPA Region 1, on a regular information exchange on operations of anaerobic digesters. Operators & managers of AD facilities are encouraged to participate. The first NDR meeting will be by free online webinar in early February. This builds on a collaborative NERC/NEBRA webinar that included digestion information. Contact NEBRA to sign up.

April 3 - 6, 2016. WEF Residuals & Biosolids Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

May 17 - 19, 2016. Canadian Biosolids & Residuals Conference, Edmonton, AB

NEBRA Events page

CHECK IT OUT...

NEBRA Members - Check out what NEBRA is tracking & saying regarding regulations & legislation. See the Reg/Leg Committee work on the members-only webpage. (Forgot password? Contact NEBRA.) See also the latest edition of the NEWEA Journal for a NEBRA summary of current regulation & legislation regarding biosolids.

Jobs! There are some job postings on the NEBRA website.

Biosolids were successfully land...
applied in western New York; see this Buffalo News article, quasar energy group (a NEBRA member) has been patiently working on local concerns regarding biosolids use in agriculture.

Massachusetts has updated its organics management plan. It includes plans for a meeting of stakeholders aimed at increasing uses of composts, conducting organic residuals market analysis, and hosting a composting workshop.

“The Martian’s crap science is not crap science.” So ends a new video from “The Film Theorists.” The video looks at the science behind the recent movie starring Matt Damon. It mentions biosolids and finds that Damon’s character’s survival growing potatoes on Mars using human excreta is reasonable science.

The King County (Seattle) “loop” biosolids was featured by a recent Evergreen State College sustainable infrastructure blog.

NPR covered biosolids & biogas again recently, this time regarding the Grand Junction, CO water resource recovery facility.

U.S. Composting Council: New video on use of certified compost for home lawns.

Lystek (a NEBRA member) has released a new series of videos about biosolids recycling and its products & services.

In Brief / en bref...

- Congratulations to the Rich Earth Institute (REI) and lead author Abe No Hays for an article on their Brattleboro, VT – based urine diversion program and research...
- Two wood-to-energy plants in Maine will close in March...
- Food scraps & other organic “wastes” are a tough market...
- Philadelphia is now requiring new home construction to include installation of in-sink food disposers that grind food scraps and send them into the wastewater collection and treatment system...

More...

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NEWS from NEBRA

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