Subject: NEBRAMail - Much news / Distilled for you
Date: Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:29:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: NEBRA
To: info@nebiosolids.org

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may see it online.
What biosolids & residuals can do.

“I don’t think I’ve seen a more significant land reclamation project using biosolids anywhere in the Northeast,” said Charley Hanson (Resource Management Inc.) during an August 2nd tour of the vast mine tailings plateaus at Asbestos, Quebec (photo above). There, biosolids, paper mill residuals, some gypsum waste, and digestates are blended in agronomic recipes to reclaim tailings rubble – barren rock piles and gravel that extends for miles.

Since 2004, Englobe, a soils and residuals management company and NEBRA member based in Sherbrooke, has deployed nearly 400,000 tons of residuals to revegetate 500+ acres of land that may now be used for wildlife, park land, and recreation. Nicholas Leblanc organized tours in early August, with Serge Loubier and other Englobe specialists explaining the details of the project.

“Reclamation of this sort is the best environmental story ever for biosolids and residuals recycling. There is no down side, no viable argument against it. This is residuals being the solution,” said Ned Beecher of NEBRA. Similar large mine reclamation projects have shown similar dramatic success elsewhere in Quebec – and here and there across North America.

More photos in the current NEWEA Journal NEBRA Highlights, coming to members soon…. and online here Oct. 5th.

October 5, Noon EDT

Eat lunch. Digest. More...

See slides & listen to discussion of June's webinar on co-digestion with Dr. Matt Higgins, Bucknell University here.
news, and the local Sierra
Club chapter is willing to learn
more and collaborate on a risk
assessment.

PFAS: WEF's webinar on
August 1st on poly- and
perfluorinated chemicals
(PFAS) related to biosolids and
residuals was attended by
about 200 professionals. WEF
members can view the
recording at no cost (others
$40).

NEW! Composting Fact
Sheet by WEF. See
here. Biosolids Facility
Report - Online Data from
EPA

Facilities in the 42 states
where EPA implements the
National Pollutant Discharge
Elimination System (NPDES)
federal biosolids program
submitted Biosolids Annual
Reports electronically for the
second time in February 2018
– continuing to reduce the
burden of paper reporting. The
data presented in ECHO via
the Biosolids Facility Search
results are now available in a
new Biosolids Facility Report.
The new report provides
integrated Biosolids Annual
Report data with other
biosolids enforcement and
compliance data in a single
report.

Users can navigate to the
report by selecting “CWA
Program Area Reports” under

In Brief / en bref...

Biosolids continue to be land applied in Gilmanton, NH, where a
local ban was passed in March. Farms that were permitted by the state
and using biosolids before the town vote are "grandfathered," allowed to
continue use, according to several legal opinions, and they are doing so
Ray Gordon of the NH Department of Environmental Services is quoted
in this article explaining the current situation.

New MA On-Farm Composting regulations were proposed - and
comments were accepted - this summer. The new regulations would
have farms register composting operations to avoid having to follow
more involved Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) site
assignment requirements. The revised regulations prescribe the
maximum amounts of off-site materials that can be composted on farms
and require at least 50% of resulting compost be used on-farm. MDAR is
reviewing comments.

At the same time, in an omnibus bill, the Legislature directed that the
MassDEP regulate on-farm composting, which is currently regulated
only by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) (see
news article). These actions resulted, in part, from ongoing conflict
between an on-farm compost operation in Northboro and the farm's
neighbors. The MA Farm Bureau opposed the change, and Governor
Charlie Baker vetoed that portion of the legislation, leaving on-farm
composting regulation at MDAR (see news article).

MA non-farm composting regulations are summarized anew here.

In western New York, the town of Wheatfield lost its appeal against
the NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets (see town website
compilation of the issue). The town sought to overturn MDAR's ruling
against the Town's local ban on biosolids use. Instead, the court upheld the use of biosolids on one local farm (see news coverage).

Meanwhile, in central New York, Assemblyman Santabarbara continues to gain a bit of attention by attacking biosolids processing and recycling.

And, on Long Island, New York, concerns about impacts of large wood mulch operations have triggered study and upcoming regulatory changes to protect groundwater, according to a news release from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The proposed Slate Belt biosolids drying project in northeast Pennsylvania continues to move forward through local and state regulatory requirements, with adaptations to meet citizen concerns. Key news coverage, June - September:

--project benefits & details (with graphics)
--plans modified
--state permit applications filed
--local planning board review continues... slowly.

Meanwhile, a bill in the PA legislature would allow municipalities to regulate biosolids locally, which is currently discouraged in large part because the PA Supreme Court has declared biosolids use to a "normal agricultural activity" under the state's "right-to-farm law.

Indian River County, FL imposed a biosolids moratorium as concerns about toxic algae blooms and phosphorus raise questions about biosolids use. Are biosolids BMPs & improved communications needed? See TC Palm story and Florida Times Union article

Across the continent, a county ban in Imperial County, CA was annulled by a court in May. According to Greg Kester of CASA, this court ruling, which is based on state preemption in the area of biosolids management, is consistent with the overturning of a ban in Kern County and "state regulations under development which disallow restrictive or prohibitive local ordinances."