Topics for Discussion

Background on state authority and state rules

The Biosolids Program in Texas
  • Staff

Permits and Registrations
  • Statistics
  • Locations

State vs. Federal

Avoiding Application NODs

Water Treatment Plant Application Form

Proposed Rule Changes
Benefits of Land Applying Sewage Sludge

- Source of nutrients for plant growth
- Saves money from using chemical fertilizers
- Lowers cost of disposal for utilities
- Lowers amount of material disposed in landfills
- Processing to higher standards to develop a product for distribution and sale
In the Beginning...

- 1993 – 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 503 became effective
- 1993 – 30 TAC Chapter 312 rules are promulgated to incorporate Part 503
- 1995 - Chapter 312 is updated
- 1998 - TCEQ authorized to administer the EPA biosolids program
- Two updates. In 2005 based on legislation and in 2014 based on a rule petition
TCEQ Biosolids Coordinators

Central Office - Austin

- **Permitting Staff**
  - Review and draft permits and registrations
  - Provide technical assistance with the permitting and registration program

- **Legal Staff**
  - Provide expertise on both state and federal regulations to permitting staff, the regulated community, and the public

Regional Offices – 16 Throughout State

- **Field Ops Investigators**
  - Conduct site assessment evaluations for proposed sites
  - Inspect sites annually
  - Investigate complaints made by public
Permitting and Registration Program

**State – TCEQ**

- Permit
  - Beneficial Land Use (BLU) of Class B Biosolids

- Registrations
  - BLU of Domestic Septage
  - Disposal and BLU of Water Treatment Plant Residuals

- Notification
  - Exceptional Quality Marketing and Distribution of Class A or AB Biosolids

**Federal - TPDES**

- Biosolids Processing
  - Dewatering
  - Lime Stabilization
  - Composting with green waste
  - Heat Pelletizing
  - Mobile Processing Unit

- Disposal of Sewage Sludge

- Incineration
Current Statistics

- 210+ Class A and AB Marketing and Distribution Sites
- 43 Class B Land Application
- 129 WTP Residual Land Application
- 48 Domestic Septage Land Application
- 9 Biosolid Processing (Separate from WWTP)
- 7 Disposal
Ways Texas Cities Handle Biosolids

- **Houston** – Class B Land Application, Class A Heat Pelletizing, Landfill
- **Dallas** – Monofill
- **San Antonio** – Compost and Landfill
- **Austin** – Class A compost (bag and sell) and Class B Land Application
- **Fort Worth** – Class AB Land Application
- **El Paso** – Off-site Monofill
- **Corpus Christi** – Landfill
- **Waco** – Class A Heat Pelletizing
Land Application of Domestic Septage
Processing of Biosolids
Chapter 312 and Part 503

How Federal and State Rules are the Same:

- Pollutant Limits
- Pathogen & Vector Attraction Reduction
- Site Management Practices
Chapter 312 and Part 503

How Federal and State Rules are Different

- Buffer zones and Slope Requirements
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Site Notification Requirements
- Classification of EQ Biosolids
- Quarterly Reporting
- Commercial Liability and Environmental Impairment Insurance
Trends

- Advanced technology in treatment to achieve Class A or AB biosolids product
- Community protest having concerns of decline in property values, groundwater contamination and odor
- County ordinances prohibiting use of biosolids
- Proposed Legislation
  - Give each county the authority over biosolids activity
Avoiding Application Deficiencies
Water Treatment Plant Application Form Update
Ch. 312 Rule Proposal

Clarify the intent of existing requirements, remove some of the inconsistencies, and improve readability.
Current Status

- TCEQ website contains the following stakeholder information:
  - Meeting agenda
  - Webcast
  - Slideshow presentation
  - Meeting summary
  - Stakeholder comments

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/sludge
Future Rulemaking

- Continue working on drafting rule language / working with Legal and other TCEQ programs

  - Develop timeline

  - Draft rule language

  - Go to Commission for proposal

    - Public Comment / Hearing

  - Adoption
Contacts and Assistance

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