

NH Wastewater Residuals: Regulatory Changes



Michael Rainey, NH Dept. of Environmental Services

North East Residual & Biosolids Conference

South Portland, ME

October 23, 2014

NH Residuals Regulations:

- **TITLE L: Water Management and Protection, CHAPTER 485-A: Water Pollution and Waste Disposal**
- **Env-Wq 1600, N.H. Septage Management Rules**
- **Env-Wq 800, N.H. Sludge Management Rules**

Env-Wq 1600, Septage Management Rules

- Septage Management Rules re-adopted November 26, 2013
- Re-adopted with limited changes
 - No substantive changes
 - Minor editorial changes or clarification
- Septage Management Rules will expire November 25, 2013

Env-Wq 800, Sludge Management Rules

- Sludge Management Rules expire on May 24, 2015
- Initiated the rulemaking process in July 2014 with public outreach through a stakeholder group
- Currently occupied with Stakeholder Committee meetings and permit process improvement
 - Stakeholder input and comment on proposed rule changes
 - Process improvement review aimed at making the sludge permitting processes more efficient
- Anticipate commencing the formal rulemaking process in January 2014

Sludge Stakeholder Committee

- Started meetings in July 2014 by soliciting participation by a diverse stakeholder group with a varied interests
- Initial meetings focused on soliciting recommendations for potential rule changes
- More recent meetings and future meetings focused on review and comment on DES proposed changes.
- Major topics of discuss:
 - Sludge quality certification testing – Scope, frequency, & cost
 - Notification and public hearing requirements
 - Soil testing requirements and cumulative loading limits
 - Regulations that are overly stringent, costly, inapplicable for certain residuals, or incompatible with federal or other state regulations

Permit Process Improvement Lean Approach

- Lean Approach – Method for process improvement pioneered by industry and adopted by NHDES for improving internal processes
- DES Residuals Management decided to use the Lean approach to improve sludge permitting processes both internally and for the regulated community
- Lean Approach is ongoing and is being applied to the following permits issued under Env-Wq 800:
 - Sludge hauler permits
 - Sludge quality certification
 - Site permit applications
 - Facility permit applications

Next Steps

- Stakeholder committee meetings continue
- Permit process improvement (Lean approach) meetings continue
- Nov. 2014 - prepare conceptual changes to the rules based upon stakeholder comments
- December 2014 - begin revision of Env-Wq 800
- In January 2015 - initiate formal rulemaking in accordance with DES policy and state statute
- June 2015 - Re-adopt Env-Wq 800

QUESTIONS?



Michael Rainey
N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services
Wastewater Engineering Bureau
Residuals Management Section
(603) 271-2818
michael.rainey@des.nh.gov