# WE WANT OUT!!

#### Maybe We Can Do This!! Beneficial Re-Use of a Nutrient-rich Wastewater (and Sludge) Michael D. Curtis, Ph.D., P.E. **Director - Project Development Quantum Biopower** Southington, CT

## CURRENT

- > 40,000 TPY SSO anaerobic digester
- > Two stage Thermophilic System
- > 1.2 MW power generation
  - 800 900 homes
- Virtual Net Metering host town
- > 10,000 TPY solids
  - A story unto itself!!

#### **Primary Operations of the Digester Project**



Decontamination/Depackaging Pulp & emulsify food waste/contamination removal (8-12% solid)

**Digestion/Biogas Creation** 2-stage digester, biogas collection sphere Biogas Conditioning & Combined Heat and Power Drying & H2S removal & energy creation

Nutrient Recovery & Removal 2-stage digester, biogas collection sphere

#### **Our Facility in Photos**



Quantum Biopower Proprietary Information 2018

### CURRENT

# ➤ 15 - 20000 GPD WW

- Regulated under a general permit
  - administered by the CT DEEP

# > 1,500 - 2,000 mg/l Total N (99%NH<sub>3</sub>)

 $> 50 - 100 \text{ mg/l Total P (dissolved - P_2O_5)}$ 



#### Digester

### TREATED WW CHARACTERISTICS

#### 50 mg/l - T Nitrogen

5 - 10 mg/l T Phosphorus

Very low metals

No organic priority pollutants

Micronutrients consistent with SSO's

### **CURRENT FLOW REGIME**



### VALUE OF CURRENT OPERATION

- 20 Years 20,000 gpd · 1,500 mg/l
- \$400 per ton N
- \$350 400 K N value
- Using \$400 per ton anhydrous ammonia

### **POSSIBLE PRODUCT TAKEOFF**



# VALUE OF CURRENT OPERATION

#### 20 years - Eliminate Permitting

- Sampling Chem analysis
- Reporting

#### **Treatment Process Savings**

- Eliminate MBR ?
- Struvite Precipitation
- \$750 1,000k (app present worth)

## VALUE OF CURRENT OPERATION

- App \$2M
- But ..
- Will Have to Treat Still (Nitrification)
- And Will Have to Treat More !!
  - Filtration R/O
  - Will Be Expensive
- Not Compelling Enough To Pursue

# Except That !!! ...





# It's Worth



# \$1 Billion Dollars (\$25 to \$50 gallon at a Time)

Certain Materials are >\$50 per Gallon





### Nitrogen Goal 0.15% N → 4 (3-5)% N 30 X Concentration Multi - Stage (i.e. UF/RO) Might be pushing it too far

### SALT - SALT - SALT - SALT - SALT -



## Salt

- NaCl Will Kill Plants Not the Desired Result - Duuhh!!
- 2,500 mg/l TDS WW
- Mostly Sodium
- 30 X Concentration YIKES !!
- Caustic Use in Reactors
- Evaluate KOH But Will Go
  Slowly



### **Pivot to Soils** NPK - 7-4-2 **Very Low Metals** Consistent with Food (i.e CU, ZN) **No Organic Priority Pollutants** Market Forces (Organic Soils) Retail - \$0.30 - \$0.40 per POUND Sodium Solubility - not as Solid Borne

**Pivot to Soils** Seen as Easier Entre' Bulk (Organic Compost) **Bagged (Strategic Partners) Offtake from Digestate Holding OMRI** Review

Larger Input Issue



### **Assessment of 'Micro - Nutrients'**

- Solids a Unique Product
- Concentrated WW Will Differ Markedly from Synthetic Equivalent.
- Both Will Contain All the Dissolved Micronutrients Associated with Food Input

### Seen As a Very Good Thing - but Must Watch

## **Spring Solids Grow Testing**

#### Greenhouse -12 week

#### Leafy Greens (i.e. spinach, lettuce)

#### Legume - Peas

#### Other - TBD

Concurrent Concept - Level Engineering

# **Final Product**

Water (a Ways Off) 600 gpd Product Possible Wholesale Value - \$1M Still have a discharge Soils - \$100 / ton Wholesale Possible Sale Value - \$1M

# Conclusion



# Soils - Possible Market Intro 2020 Have Customers Developing Product



# **Final Thought**

These New Top Line \$\$ Add-Ons Allow More plants to be Built - Increase Organics Recycling Opportunity