



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

Revised Biosolids Permits PAG-07, PAG-08, and PAG-09

**Water Resources Advisory Committee
March 24, 2021**

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Agenda

- General information on Biosolids and Biosolids Permits
- Why DEP is proposing revisions
- Proposed changes
- Timeline for development and issuance

What are Biosolids?

- Sewage Sludge = Biosolids
- What are they? – Treated Domestic Wastewater Solids.
- Where do they come from? – Domestic Sewage Treatment Facility
- What are they used for? - Agriculture, Mine reclamation, Landscaping to promote plant growth and soil regeneration
- DEP recognizes biosolids as a cost-effective source of organic material and nutrients essential for plant growth

Biosolids Permits - General Information

- Statutory and Regulatory Authority
- State Regulation = EPA 40 CFR Part 503
- PAG-07 – Exceptional Quality
- PAG-08 – Non-Exceptional Quality
- PAG-09 – Residential Septage
- Clean Water Program

Why Propose Changes?

- Permits administratively extended
- Address issues field staff have experienced
- Address new issues related to biosolids beneficial reuse

Proposed Changes

- Reorganized Permit Contents
- Term of permit extended from 5 years to 10 years.
 - Existing permits with non-expiring Coverage
- Prohibition of mixing wastes with sewage sludge.
 - Hauled-in waste acceptance and Treatment Facility
 - If not incorporated into head of plant, the biosolids are not sewage sludge

Proposed Changes

- PAG-07 and PAG-08, adding PFOA and PFOS monitoring requirements
- Addition of P-Index based land application rates requirements.
 - Treatment Facilities Nutrient Reduction Requirements
 - CAOs and CAFO currently utilize for management of manure application
 - 2yr Phase for existing land application sites
 - New land application sites would be immediately subject to requirement
- Storage amounts limited to next growing cycle to address issues during especially wet years

Timeline

- March 2021 – Presentation to AAB and WRAC
 - Option for Advisory Boards to form workgroup to review specific detail and for discussion. Pre-draft permits provided prior to workgroup discussion
- WRAC/AAB Workgroups provide feedback on Pre-Drafts
- Pre-Draft Permit Listening Session - Solicit input from stakeholders
- Draft general permits published (45 Day Comment Period)
- Final general permits published – Target Q4 2021



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Questions?

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