

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Biosolids Program

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Programs

DEQ Organizational Changes After Biosolids Transfer from VDH

- Introduced Office of Land Application Programs
 - Sewage Sludge / Biosolids
 - Industrial Sludges
 - Septage
 - Water Reclamation and Reuse
 - Livestock and Poultry Waste - “CAFO”

Biosolids Expert Panel

- House Joint Resolution 694
 - Tasked with responding to human health & environmental questions associated with biosolids
 - Convened by
 - Secretary of Natural Resources
 - Secretary of Health and Human Resources
 - Representatives from academia, biosolids generators, state and federal government, citizens
 - Final Report published January 2009
- www.deq.virginia.gov/info/biosolidspanel.html

DEQ Biosolids Regulatory Actions

- Transferred VDH Biosolids regulations “as is” to DEQ, coupled with new statutory requirements
 - Effective January 1, 2008
 - Unannounced inspections
 - Public notice requirements during permitting process
 - Initial issuance and modification
 - Notice to DEQ prior to spreading
 - Nutrient Management Plans
 - Fees for permits and land application
- Further Improvement of Regulations
 - Technical Advisory Committee meeting now
 - Consistency between VPA & VPDES
 - Incomplete VDH amendments (storage, access control, fees)
 - Public notice, nutrient management, permitting, buffers, etc.

Biosolids Fees

- Funds DEQ, DCR, and local monitoring programs
- Permit Fees
 - Initial Issuance = \$5000, Modification = \$1000
- Land Application Fee
 - \$7.50 per dry ton land applied
 - Generator (WWTP)
 - Excludes “Exceptional Quality Biosolids”
 - Class A pathogen reduction
 - Lower pollutant limits
 - Additional vector attraction reduction

DEQ Biosolids Program

- Compliance Assurance is primary objective
- Tasks
 - Regional
 - Compliance & Enforcement
 - Permitting
 - Central Office
 - Program management
 - Regulations
 - Guidance
 - Training
 - Accounting
 - Communication & Outreach

DEQ Biosolids Program

- Compliance and Enforcement
 - Notice to DEQ prior to land application
 - Unannounced inspections during application activity
 - Supplemented by inspections before and after applications
 - Local monitors
 - DEQ provides training
 - Coordination with DEQ inspections
 - Statutory authority to stop application activities if non-compliance found
- Permitting
 - VDH permit holders can continue to operate under existing permit
 - All VDH permits must be converted to VPA
 - Permit modifications not completed before January 1, 2008 must go through VPA permit issuance process

DEQ Biosolids Permitting Process

- Permit Application
 - DEQ review, Notice to locality
- Public Informational Meeting
 - Newspaper notice (between 7 & 14 days before)
 - Answer questions, gather technical data
 - 30 day comment period
- Draft Permit
 - Newspaper notice (twice in 2 consecutive weeks)
 - 30 day comment period, opportunity to request hearing
- Regional Director makes permitting decision
- OR...
- If significant public interest in holding a hearing on draft permit:
 - Public Hearing will be held in locality
 - Newspaper notice of public hearing date (once >30 days prior to hearing)
 - 15 day comment period
- State Water Control Board makes permitting decision at next regular meeting

DEQ Biosolids Program

- Training & Certification for Land Appliers
 - Required for land application of Class B biosolids
 - Certification program began in 2007 by Dept. of Health
 - DEQ continuing to certify applicators
 - over 100 persons certified
 - Continuing education requirements

DEQ Biosolids Program

- Human Health
 - Coordinated with VA Dept. of Health
- Nutrient Management
 - Coordinated with Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
 - All sites require a Nutrient Management Plan prior to land application
 - Certain plans require approval

DEQ Biosolids Program

- Public Outreach Goals
 - Transparency
 - Inform
 - Answer Questions
 - Gather Input

DEQ Biosolids Program

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- **Websites:**
 - Land Application
 - <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpa/landapp.html>
 - Agricultural Programs
 - <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpa/agriculture.html>
