

November, 2008

Biosolids Division Monthly Report

Submitted by:

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A photograph of a rural agricultural landscape. In the foreground, a green tractor is working in a field. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a large hay bale on the right side. The sky is overcast.

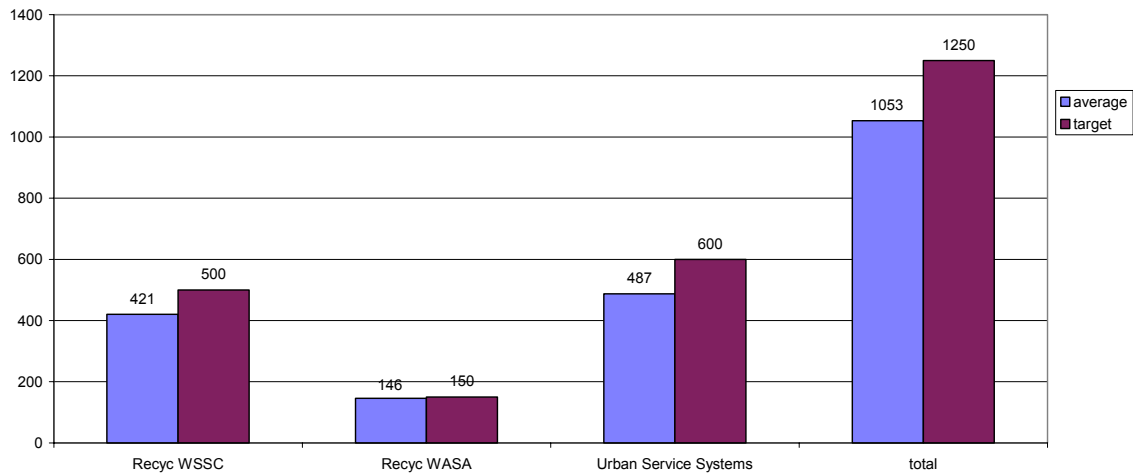
The mission of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority biosolids management program is to provide reliable, diversified, flexible, sustainable, environmentally sound, publicly acceptable, and cost-effective management of biosolids produced by the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant while helping preserve agriculture and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

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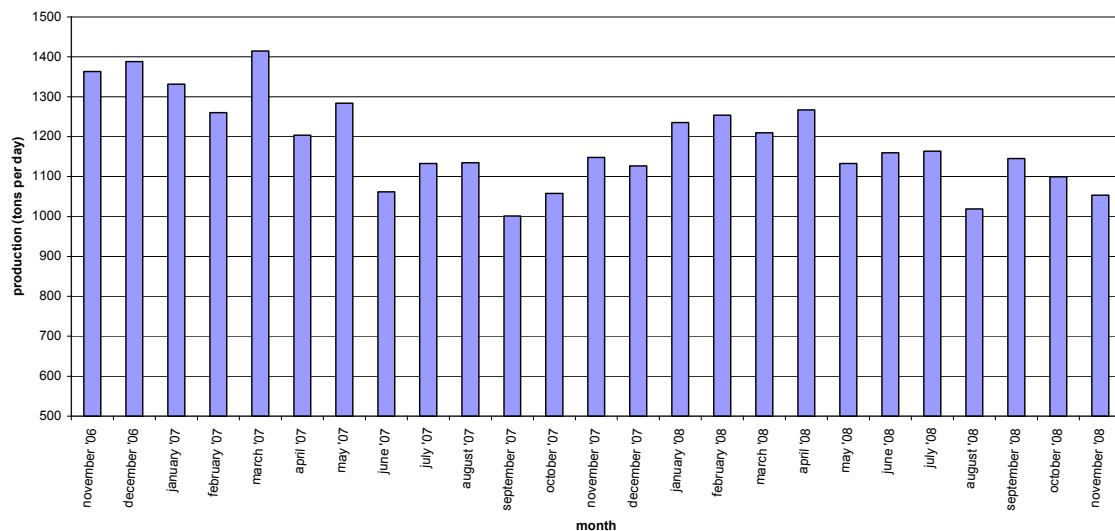
In November, biosolids hauling averaged 1053 wet tons per day. The graph below shows the hauling by contractor for the month of November. The average % solids was 26.95%, and average lime dose was 15.65%. A second graph shows average tons recycled per day for the last 24 months.

In November, WASA again shipped biosolids to the McGill Compost Facility in Waverly, VA. This is done through the Urban Service Systems contract. In November a total of 614 tons went to compost production.

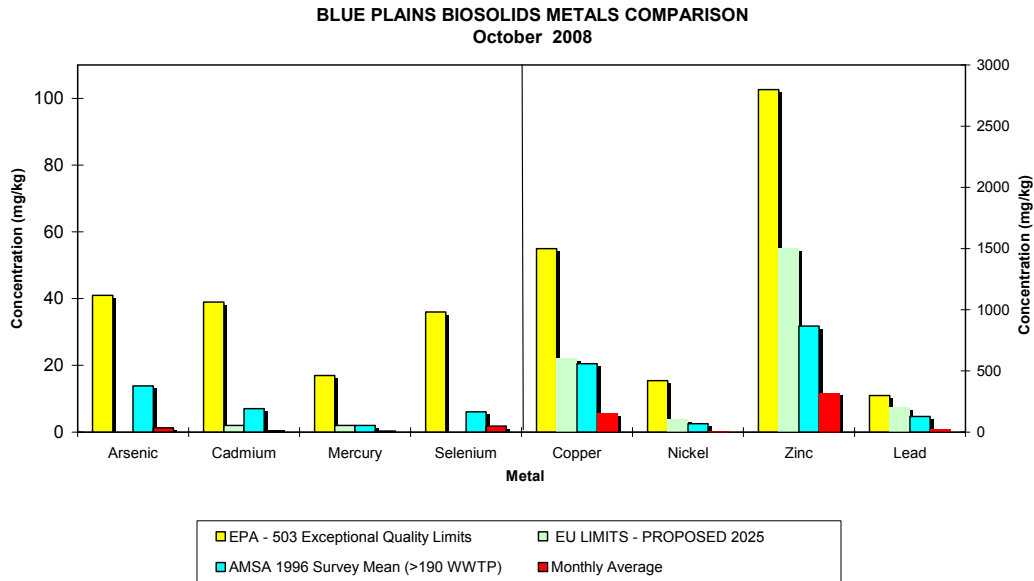
Average Daily Hauling by Contractor for November, 2008



Average Daily Biosolids Production



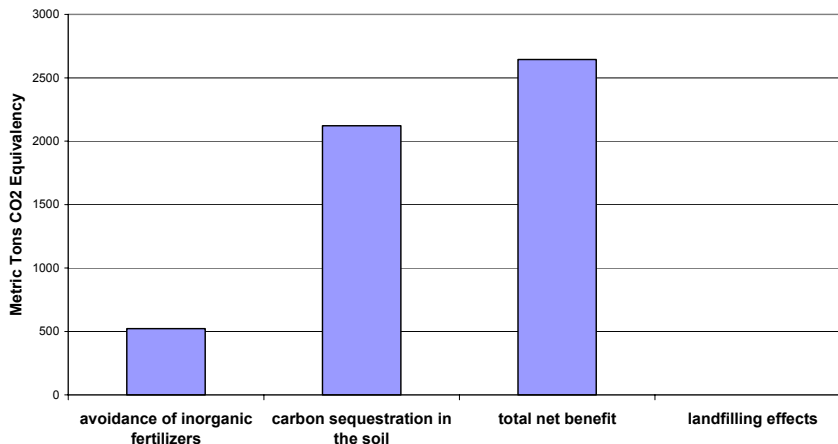
The graphs below show the EPA regulated heavy metals in the Blue Plains biosolids for the month of October 2008. As can be seen in the graphs, the Blue Plains levels are considerably below the regulated exceptional quality limits, the AMSA average levels surveyed in 1996, and even the proposed 2025 European Union (EU) limits.



Environmental Benefits

In October of 2008 staff sent 33,689 wet tons of biosolids from the plant. In addition, 3,383 wet tons of material came out of storage in October. No tonnage went to landfills in October. The graph below shows the benefits as compared to landfilling all the biosolids in a non-energy recovering landfill. Taking into account the fuel required to transport biosolids to the field, the net benefit is 2,644 metric tons CO₂ equivalent avoided emissions. The graph shows the benefit (carbon credit) of the sequestration, the energy savings due to avoiding conventional fertilizer use, and the total of the two. This is equivalent to taking 5,996,451 car miles off the road in the month of October (assumes 20 mpg, 19.4 lb CO₂ equivalent emissions/gallon gas – EPA estimate).

DCWASA Biosolids Recycling Program
Greenhouse Gas Balance Benefits
October 2008 Hauling Totals



HIGHLIGHTS

In November, Staff participated in the final meeting of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Biosolids Expert Panel meeting. During this meeting, panelists discussed language in the draft report, and decided on consensus on several issues. DEQ staff stated that although this was the last meeting of the Panel, the report will come back for revision to the panelists at least twice (via e-mail) before it is finalized. Although there are several items on which the Panelists came to consensus, the report is not finalized at this moment, and some language is still open to debate. Staff can report on a few of the consensus items in general terms, including:

- During the past 18 months, the Panel was unable to uncover any evidence or literature supporting a link between biosolids and health complaints. The Panel recognizes that the science is incomplete in some areas surrounding this issue.
- DEQ shall establish a communication plan to ensure fluid and timely communication between DEQ, VDH, DCR, contractors, generators, inspectors, farmers, and the concerned public.
- DEQ shall adopt or develop an incident response protocol in order to track complaints and gather data for the purposes of protecting the public, identifying trends, and preventing future complaints.
- VA should consider funding full engineering evaluations and pilot tests for alternative technologies.
- DEQ should review the research pertaining to biosolids issues annually.
- Many of the technical decisions, regarding buffers and other potential regulatory changes, should be forwarded to the DEQ Regulatory Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which began meeting this fall.

Other issues will come to light as the report is finalized. The Panel has a deadline of early January to get the final report to the General Assembly.

Staff, with assistance and direction from Gordon Frye, continued to meet with VA and MD Congressional and Senate staffers. These meetings are scheduled in an effort to brief the legislature on the issues surrounding biosolids. Each meeting is an opportunity to present accurate information and serves as an introduction to WASA so that we can be used as a source of information regarding this issue.

Map of Blue Plains Biosolids Applications and Agricultural \$'s for October 2008

