## July 2005 Blue Plains Biosolids Report

In July, biosolids hauling averaged 1191 wet tons per day. The graph below shows the hauling by contractor for the month of July. A second graph shows the average daily production per month for the previous 12-month period.



Average Daily Hauling by Contractor for July, 2005

12 Month Average Monthly Biosolids Production



The graphs below show the EPA regulated heavy metals in the Blue Plains biosolids for the month of June 2005. 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.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Staff attended and participated in the Biosolids Use and Information Committee (BUIC) and the Biosolids Use and Regulation Advisory Committee (BURAC) meetings last month. The BUIC meeting showcased a presentation by Dr. Tom Fox of Virginia Tech who is conducting forestry biosolids application research for DCWASA in order to refine application rates and answer questions posed by VDH. The BURAC consists of generators, regulators, contractors, and concerned citizens and meets monthly to discuss regulatory changes and issues. This past month, staff served on a subcommittee to re-examine buffers around "sensitive" receptors. The intent was to minimize odor impacts on groups of residents, businesses, schools, etc. The sub-committee consisted of two generators, a contractor, and a citizen. The subcommittee revised the language in the regulation to allow VDH to double the buffer from 200 to 400 feet if deemed necessary to avoid nuisance. The regulation also highlights VDH's right to increase buffers further and to stop operations if necessary. The full BURAC took the recommendation of the subcommittee and word smithed the language to ensure that all members concerns were satisfied.

Researchers at Virginia Tech submitted to the Journal of Residuals Science and Technology and had accepted the paper titled Biosolids Impact on Tall Fescue Drought Resistance. This is a paper that looks at the secretion of essential plant growth enhancers by microbes in the biosolids. Microbes consume organics and naturally secrete compounds that help plants get through stressful conditions such as drought. The paper outlines evidence to this effect via a greenhouse growth study. The journal will publish the paper this fall.

## Map of Blue Plains Biosolids Applications and Agricultural \$'s for June 2005

