December 2005 Blue Plains Biosolids Report

In December, biosolids hauling averaged 1211 wet tons per day. The graph below shows the hauling by contractor for the month of December. A second graph shows the average daily production per month for the previous 24-month period.



Average Daily Hauling by Contractor for December, 2005





The graphs below show the EPA regulated heavy metals in the Blue Plains biosolids for the month of November 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 participated in a workshop sponsored by the Northeast Biosolids Recycling Association (NEBRA) designed to inform wastewater professionals on how to effectively reach out to interested parties and to communicate effectively with the public. Staff presented some research findings and discussed the implementation of the biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) that requires a communication plan and a proactive program for interacting with interested parties. Staff recounted some success stories and presented evidence that there are actions that can be taken at a treatment plant that can have a positive effect (and others than can have a negative effect) on biosolids odors.

Staff is developing a tool to help measure the effect of the biosolids recycling on greenhouse gas emissions. Several technical papers and magazine articles have been written by researchers recently showing that biosolids recycling can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (compared to inorganic fertilizer use) by sequestering carbon in soils and in crops, avoiding the use of fossil fuels needed for the production of inorganic fertilizer, avoiding the production of unused methane in landfills, producing biofuel crops, and other means. The tool will calculate the mass of CO_2 equivalent greenhouse gas (CO_2 , CH_4 , N_20) production avoided by recycling biosolids. The tool will also calculate the net positive effect after digesters are built at Blue Plains, since the methane generated will likely be used for power generation. Staff looks forward to unveiling this tool in the coming months in this report.

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

