January, 2009

Biosolids Division Monthly Report

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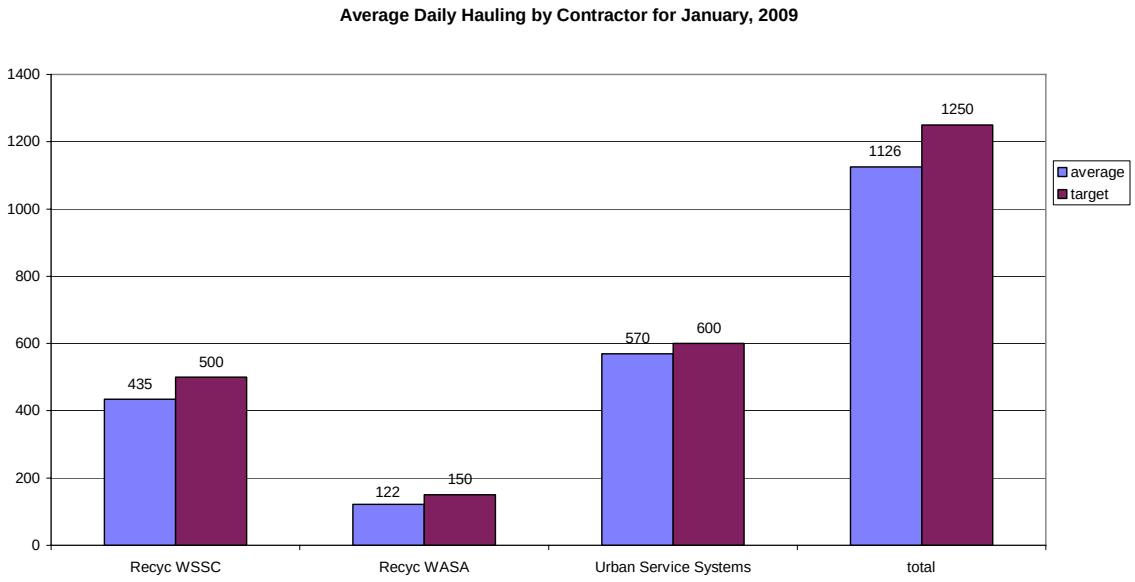
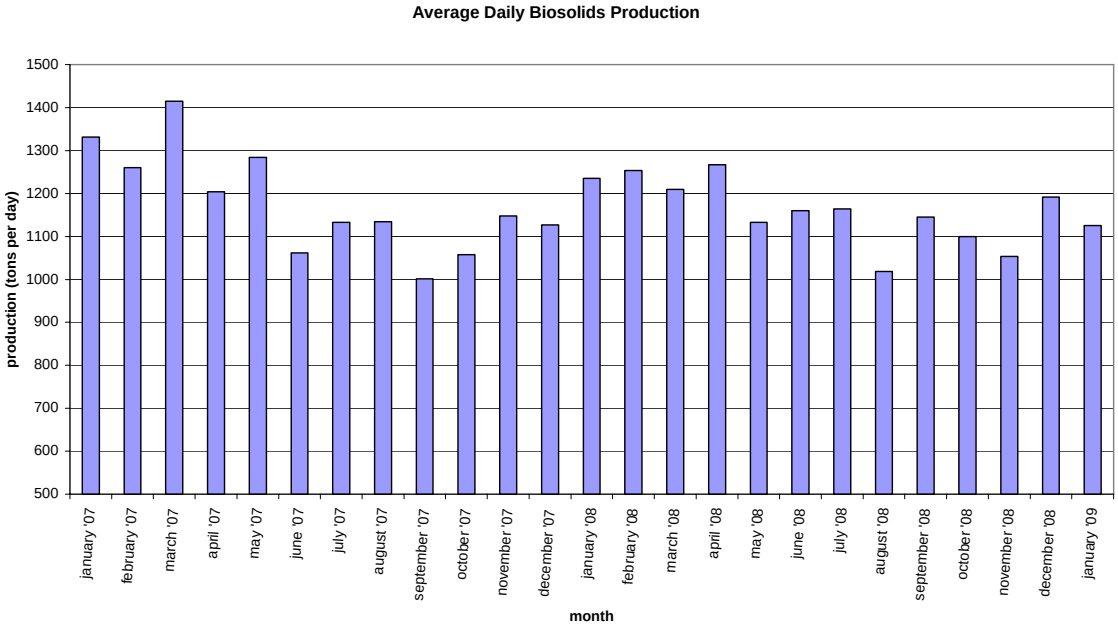
The mission of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority biosolids management program is to provide reliable, diversified, flexible, sustainable, environmentally sound, publicly acceptable, and cost-effective management of biosolids produced by the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant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

January 2009 Biosolids Division Report

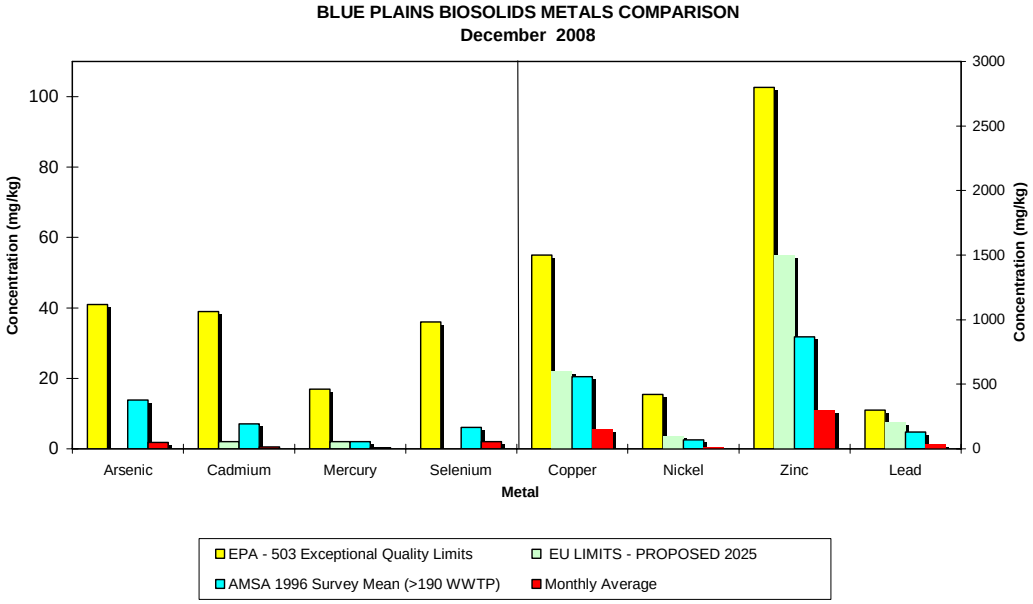
In January, biosolids hauling averaged 1126 wet tons per day. The graph below shows the hauling by contractor for the month of January. The second graph shows average tons recycled per day for the last 24 months. The average % solids was 25.74%, and average lime dose was 12.49%.

In January WASA again shipped biosolids to the McGill Compost Facility in Waverly, VA. This is done through the Urban Service Systems contract. In January a total of 918 tons went to compost production.

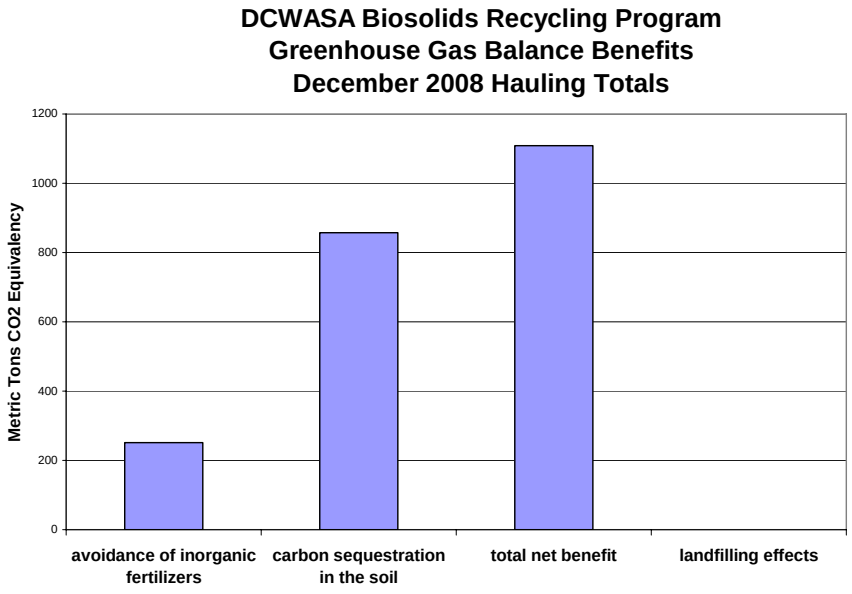




The graphs below show the EPA regulated heavy metals in the Blue Plains biosolids for the month of December 2008. As can be seen in the graphs, the Blue Plains levels are considerably below the regulated exceptional quality limits, the AMSA average levels surveyed in 1996, and even the proposed 2025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



Environmental Benefits



No tonnage went to landfills in December. The graph above 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 1109 metric tons CO_2 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 2,515,596 car miles off the road in the month of December (assumes 20 mpg, 19.4 lb CO2 equivalent emissions/gallon gas – EPA estimate).

HIGHLIGHTS

In January, staff set a goal to use a quantity of biosolids compost within the district in 2009. Staff will accomplish this through the use of compost produced at Blue Plains and at the McGill Compost Facility in projects in different parts of the city. Staff has made contact with individuals and organization interested in using the material for tree planting and for restoration. Staff is working on a draft logo and a label for the product that will incorporate themes of recycling, carbon footprint, and environmental stewardship.

Staff became aware of two bills concerning biosolids being considered in the Virginia General assembly this session. One bill requires a public hearing for any permit modification greater than 50 acres. The second bill would require a generator or land applier to sample and test for any unregulated compound if requested by a medical professional. At the time of this writing, the first bill has passed the house vote, and the second bill was not advanced from the Agricultural Committee, so it will not come up for a vote. VAMWA and Aqualaw (representing VAMWA) were instrumental in ensuring that committee members had accurate information on the implications of the second bill.

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