



NEWS RELEASE

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METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT EMS REVERIFICATION AUDIT A SUCCESS

DENVER, July 13 — The Metro District's environmental management system for the biosolids program has been recertified by the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). NSF International, an independent third-party audit company hired by NBP, completed the full system audit on May 7.

After three days of employee interviews, document review, and inspections of the treatment facility and a land application site, the auditor identified one minor nonconformance, 11 opportunities for improvement, and nine positive commendations. The full audit report can be found on the Metro District website at www.metrowastewater.com.

The goal of the audit is to ensure that the Metro District's biosolids program conforms to all of the NBP requirements. The audit confirmed that the Metro District met requirements of the Code of Good Practice and is effective in ensuring progress is made toward the NBP's four desired outcomes in environmental performance, regulatory compliance, public participation, and quality biosolids management practices.

The audit provides an opportunity for the Metro District to learn how to further improve the biosolids program. Listed below are some of the Metro District's achievements in the past five years:

- Implemented a Citizen Participation Group
- Reduced time required to respond to inquiries and complaints
- Constructed two-phase digesters
- Improved odor control
- Added flexibility and diversity to biosolids disposition options
- Improved community relationships responding to triennial surveys
- Added gravity sludge thickener and step screen processes
- Completed the Biosolids Long-term Effects on Alluvial Mine Tailings Study near Leadville, CO

The nonconformance was related to the 2008 third-party audit, which identified that a new step screen process had not been added to the EMS. The corrective action was to add the new process once testing was complete – testing was completed but the process did not get added to the EMS. The corrective action for the current minor nonconformance is to add the step screen process to the EMS by August 15, 2010.

The Metro District's 715-square mile service area includes most of metropolitan Denver, including all of Denver and parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, and part of Westminster are included. About 1.7 million people are served.

The Metro District collects and treats about 140 million gallons of wastewater a day at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility five miles northeast of central Denver. This plant, which is rated for a design flow of 220 million gallons a day (30-day average), is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Rocky Mountain West.

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