

Element 1: Biosolids Management Program Manual

Revision: 09	Revision Date: 05/31/13	Approved By:
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NATIONAL BIOSOLIDS PARTNERSHIP (NBP)

The National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) was formed in 1997. The program is operated by the Water Environment Federation (WEF), in collaboration with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and local and regional biosolids management organizations across the nation, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other participants in the NBP include municipal wastewater treatment facilities, service contractors, biosolids users, stakeholders for regulatory agencies, universities, the farming community, and environmental organizations. The goal of the NBP is to advance environmentally sound and accepted management practices for the treatment, handling, and use or disposal of biosolids, as well as to positively affect public perception of biosolids programs by demonstrating a commitment to enhance the environment and to perform beyond mandatory regulations. This goal was the thrust behind the creation of the Biosolids Management Program (BMP.)

BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (BMP)

The BMP is an organized management system comprised of elements organized in five categories. These elements are the guidelines for achieving the biosolids management policy requirements and for developing, implementing, reviewing, and maintaining effective biosolids management programs, procedures, and practices. The BMP manages all critical control points associated with biosolids activities where there is a potential to create significant negative environmental impacts. The BMP provides oversight for management processes from planning through the final disposition of biosolids.

The following is a list of the five categories and the individual management elements on which the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District's (Metro District or District) BMP is based:

Policy

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Planning

Element 2: Biosolids Management Policy

Element 3: Biosolids Value Chain and Critical Control Points

Element 4: Legal and Other Requirements

Element 5: Goals and Objectives

Element 6 and 9: Public Participation and Communication

Implementation

Element 7: Roles and Responsibilities

Element 8: Training

Element 10: Operational Control of Critical Control Points

Element 11: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Element 12: Documentation, Document Control and Recordkeeping

Measure and Corrective Action and Management Review

Element 13: Monitoring and Measurement

Element 14: Nonconformance: Preventive and Corrective Action

Element 15 and 17: BMP Performance and Management Review
Report

Element 16: Internal BMP Audit

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How does it work?

In summary, the five categories of the BMP are structured so that an organization can develop a management policy that reflects the main principles of the National Biosolids Partnership's *Code of Good Practice*, as outlined under Element #2. Following the suggested guidelines of the individual Elements, an organization will plan and document environmental impacts, legal requirements, and goals and objectives for its biosolids-related activities. The program incorporates structure, responsibility, communication, training, operational control, emergency preparedness and response, and documentation. A successful BMP will incorporate corrective and preventative actions involving monitoring and measurement tools, internal audits and a thorough periodic review of the system by management.

METRO DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

To ensure that all areas of the Biosolids Value Chain are represented in the implementation and management of the BMP, employees from various Departments have been designated as members of the BMP Team as a core or resource member, to act as liaisons. All BMP Team members are identified in Element 7 of this manual.

The BMP can help to maintain regulatory compliance, enhance environmental performance, increase efficiency, reduce cost, provide for better pollution prevention, improve consistency and quality of biosolids, and strengthen the District's relations with the local community. Although the District has done a good job in all of these areas, there is always room for improvement.

The District has developed a Biosolids Management Program that reflects the main principles of the NBP's *Code of Good Practice* and the best management practices as outlined in the *National Manual of Good Practice*. To ensure that the District's BMP is environmentally sound, meets requirements set forth by the NBP BMP Guidelines, and is being practiced, the District will participate in an independent third-party audit process as established by the NBP. As part of this independent audit, the District will acknowledge and address those gaps identified by the third party.

By adopting the BMP Elements, the District has improved biosolids management activities, assured compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, and addressed other environmental issues, such as odor, that could cause community concerns. The District's BMP is available for review by all interested parties, promoting open and honest communication that, in turn, promotes a more informed public.

Some of the public's prior concerns have been the effect that biosolids have on the environment and human health, odors, and traffic, as well as how land application close to residential development will impact property values. The District believes that its BMP addresses these concerns and has improved public outreach by providing a mechanism to build good relations between the District and the communities in which biosolids are applied.

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The BMP demonstrates the District's commitment to a strong, solid, all-encompassing biosolids management program. It also ensures the biosolids are processed appropriately and safely, proper documentation and reporting requirements for the reuse of the product are met, and the agency's overall management of the program is efficient and environmentally sound.

One of the District's main goals in implementing a BMP is to allow for continuous improvement. This involves constant evaluation of the processes and our ability to meet established goals on an ongoing basis. Specifically, the District's BMP includes the following components:

- Overall objectives of the Biosolids Management Program.
- Management practices to meet the objectives of the BMP.
- Critical control points at which the effectiveness of management practices can be monitored and measured.
- Corrective and preventative measures if the management practices are not operating effectively.
- Provisions for an internal audit of the Biosolids Management Program, as well as an independent third-party audit.
- Commitment to periodically evaluate and update the BMP as appropriate.