WEF Residuals & Biosolids Committee
Outreach and Education Subcommittee
WEFTEC 2010
Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, LA
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
2:30 – 4:00 pm
Room 274

Rhonda Bowen, *Chair*
Natalie Sierra, *Vice-Chair*

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome	R. Bowen
2. Review of Agenda	R. Bowen
3. Review of RBC 2010 Specialty Conference Minutes	R. Bowen
4. Review of Mission and Goals	R. Bowen
5. State Biosolids Issues	R. Bowen
6. Decatur AL/Dismissal of David Lewis Litigation Biosolids Update	B. Bastian
7. WEF Biosolids Activity Updates	
a. WEF of Definition of Solid Waste/ SSI MACT Standards Rulemaking	S. Hadeed
b. NBP – WEF Communications Update	S. Hadeed
8. Fact Sheets Update/Work Groups	R. Bowen
a. Collaboration with NACWA on Dioxins/Microconstituents in Biosolids Update	B. Bastian
b. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Biosolids Management)	R. Bowen
c. WEF Biosolids Position Statement Revision	S. Hadeed
9. Young Professional Involvement	R. Bowen
10. Next Meeting	
a. RBC 2011Specialty Conf. – Sacramento, CA: May 22-25	S. Hadeed
11. Other Business	R. Bowen
12. Adjourn	

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MINUTES

Introduction and Welcome
Subcommittee Chair Rhonda Bowen welcomed the committee attendees and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Natalie was not able to attend due to maternity leave.

Review of Agenda
The agenda was reviewed, no additional items were added.

Review of RBC 2010 Savannah Specialty Conference Minutes
Rhonda provided a brief summary of the highlights of the minutes and they were accepted as written.

Review of Mission and Goals
Rhonda reviewed the mission and goals of the subcommittee for new participants.

State Biosolids Issues:
Rhonda asked participants to share any updates regarding biosolids issues. No new items were discussed.

Decatur, AL/Dismissal of David Lewis Litigation Biosolids Update
Bob Bastian, EPA, provided an update. The False Claims Act lawsuit brought by David Lewis and others against John Walker, Bob Brobst, Julia Gaskin and other EPA and University of Georgia researchers has been dismissed by a Federal Judge. The case, which was related to 20-year old claims of harm from biosolids by two Georgia farmers, was dismissed on the legal issue that any information that Lewis had was already in the public domain, and therefore Lewis and the other plaintiffs had no basis for a False Claims Act lawsuit. The ruling does not address the merits of their allegations.

Decatur AL: There are many issues for EPA to resolve. There are still trying to determine “action” levels. There is a need to develop appropriate procedures for doing analyses; PFOA’s are in many usable products so it is difficult to quantify what is in the environment. PFOA were not included in the Targeted National Survey. There are industrial sites where PFOA contamination exists, however no action levels were ever established. Clean up efforts only included capping the sites. EPA is analyzing groundwater, soils and cattle in order to track levels and determine if they can establish “action” levels for the future.

Action: The Outreach & Education Subcommittee will continue to provide communication on biosolids issues to the full committee as new information is obtained.

WEF Biosolids Activity Updates

a. WEF-NACWA Collaboration on Definition of Solid Waste/SSI MACT Standards Rulemaking

On September 30, 2010 the EPA proposed new source performance standards and new guidelines for new and existing SSIs. A fact sheet was distributed to meeting participants.

Action: Committee representatives were encouraged to get involved in reviewing the requirements and to submit comments to EPA. Comments may be submitted for 30 days following publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.

b. NBP 2009 – 2010 Communications Plan Update

Sam Hadeed briefed the subcommittee on the status of the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). NBP website has been fully migrated over to the WEF webpage and a new NBP logo has been adopted. NBP is in the process of broadening its scope to look more at energy etc. and going beyond its original focus of EMS. NBP has been and will continue to sponsor webcasts. In addition they have redesigned the Newsletters. In early December WEF/NBP will be hosting a workshop to chart the future of biosolids. Thirty biosolids professionals from multiple disciplines will be invited to participate. A white paper will be developed based on the workshop findings.

Action: Sam will continue to provide updates on NBP program status and communications plans

Fact Sheets Updates

Rhonda Bowen discussed the subcommittee’s goals for developing fact sheets and TPU’s. Currently there are none in the development.

a. Collaboration with NACWA on Dioxins/Microconstituents in Biosolids

EPA did not issue a final rule on dioxin because the OMB determined there was no cost benefit. Of the facilities surveyed there were approximately 10% of the samples collected that were over the threshold. The subcommittee has been working on a mechanism to develop a fact sheet or guidance document on dioxins to help “outlier” facilities manage these materials. Rick Stevens, EPA has secured money to have a contractor develop a guidance documents to address this issue.

Action: The draft guidance document will be circulated to the subcommittee for review and comment once EPA receives it from the contractor. The guidance document could serve as a template to address microconstituents in the future. The Outreach and Education Subcommittee will develop a fact sheet summarizing the document once it has been finalized.

b. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Biosolids Management)

The subcommittee discussed WEF's progress on developing a protocol for determining GHG emissions. Sam reported the Biofuel and Carbon Task force are working on 3 TPU's to be complete by the Sacramento Specialty Conference.

No action required

c. WEF Biosolids Position Statement Review

The 17 year old biosolids statement has been revised to include land application, energy recovery, and energy efficiency with a better balance on all technologies available to the industry.

Action: Chair will send out the draft position statement for one last review to a few members of the Outreach and Education Subcommittee. WEF would like to adopt the new position statement in November.

Young Professional Involvement

The Technical Practice Committee is in the process of updating online training information.

Action: Ask YP's to review biosolids training materials to see if they are technically correct. The WEF contact for review is Doreen Sanders

Next Meeting

Sam Hadeed mentioned that the next meeting for the subcommittee will be held during WEFTEC 2010 in New Orleans, LA from October 2-6.

Other Business

Todd Williams new Chair of RBC asked the subcommittee to develop a one page fact sheet covering the subcommittee's mission statement and goals.

Action: Seek volunteers to work on this.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

WEF RESIDUALS & BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
WEFTEC 2010
ATTENDEES

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