



Setting an Example

How Orange County, Fla., the host county of WEFTEC.09, started and succeeded with its biosolids reuse program

Clare Pierson: When did Orange County begin its biosolids recycling program, and what were the challenges with getting it up and running?

William Hurley: Until 2003, the Orange County Utilities (OCU) Department disposed of biosolids generated at our three water reclamation facilities at the Orange County Landfill. Our water reclamation facilities produce approximately 15,300 dry tons of biosolids annually and space at the landfill is limited. We began to seek short-term, cost-effective and environmentally responsible solutions. After conducting research, we decided that land-applying our biosolids (after further processing) was the way to go.

We needed to find a contractor who could process the unstabilized biosolids prior to land application as well as maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. At the time, there was only one permitted biosolids processing facility in Orange County. We prepared our bid documents in a way that provided contractors the option of stabilizing the biosolids and then land-applying them, or disposing the unstabilized biosolids at a landfill that would accept biosolids. This approach opened up the bidding process to several contractors.

We also knew we would bring more visibility to our program because our hauling trucks would be traveling through neighboring communities. That led to a heightened awareness of our responsibility to those communities and agricultural land. This led us to implement the National Biosolids Partnership's Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS).

Implementing this system presented a number of challenges. For one, OCU's three water reclamation facilities differed in day-to-day operations. By employing a biosolids EMS, we created standard operating procedures that helped our facilities run more efficiently and put everyone on the same page. From this, we were able to create formalized training classes for our facility operators and plant personnel.

Pierson: What advice can you offer to municipalities interested in starting a biosolids EMS?

Hurley: When we began creating our Biosolids EMS, our Biosolids EMS manual became a large and overwhelming document. While generating a number of ideas is good, we learned it was better to keep things simple and to go slowly. We decided to simplify the manual, which has worked well for our operations.

I encourage municipalities to figure

out what works for them and create a simple biosolids EMS that is specific to their operations. I would strongly advise municipalities to obtain management and employee support in the development process at every level.

Pierson: What are some benefits of applying 100% of OCU's biosolids as fertilizer to agricultural lands?

Hurley: Land-applying our biosolids allows us to complete the reuse/recycle circle. This means that 100% of our effluent is used for reclaimed water and 100% of our biosolids are used for land application. Our biosolids also help supply nutrients to the soil and agricultural crops in central Florida.

Pierson: Acreage of agricultural lands is decreasing in Orange County, thereby decreasing the need for biosolids. What will happen to the extra biosolids?

Hurley: Available acreage of agricultural lands is decreasing due to development and growth. Also, the Orange County Code is very restrictive as to where biosolids can be land-applied. The state of Florida is also proposing new regulations that would limit the areas where biosolids can be land-applied in central Florida.

The county is evaluating various beneficial reuse options to prepare for a future increase in biosolids production and to comply with upcoming regulations. Preliminary options under consideration include mixing biosolids with fly ash to increase the solid content and then using the final dried product as daily cover at the landfill, energy-recovery options and fertilizer production. **WWD**

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EPA Revises 'Buy American' Rule



A waiver granted by the U.S. EPA may help speed up projects delayed by roadblocks caused by the "Buy American" requirements in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Non-domestic iron, steel and manufactured goods can be used in minor components of eligible projects, with some restrictions.

Rep. Henry Waxman Introduces Water System Security Act



Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, recently introduced the Drinking Water System Security

Act of 2009. The bill would require the EPA to establish risk-based performance standards for community water systems serving more than 3,300 people and certain other public water systems with security risks.

CH2M HILL Employees Give \$229,000 to Water For People



As part of CH2M HILL's May workplace giving campaign, employees contributed \$229,000 to

nonprofit agency Water For People. The company's 2009 giving campaign set new records. Employees from 165 offices participated in the campaign, including 20 offices outside of North America.

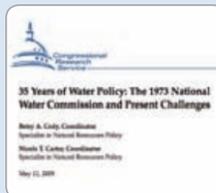
Milwaukee Water Consortium Meets to Discuss Challenges



The Milwaukee 7 Water Council, a consortium of Milwaukee organizations

represented by government, academia and business, convened Water Summit III: The True Costs and Opportunities of Water on July 20, 2009. Leaders from local and international business, technology, education and environmental organizations met to discuss the value and "true price" of water. To access videos and slides, visit www.milwaukee7-watercouncil.com.

Report Examines Past, Future of Water Policy



Betsy A. Cody and Nicole T. Carter of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress

have released a report titled *35 Years of Water Policy: The 1973 National Water Commission and Present Challenges*, which presents a summary of the 1973 report, *Water Policies for the Future*, and how the issues contained therein have evolved since its release. These issues are especially relevant as Congress considers the establishment of a Twenty-First Century Water Policy Commission. The new report covers attempts to unify and coordinate water policy, and why that is so difficult.

Sherwin-Williams Launches Industry Blog



Sherwin-Williams has launched Waterblog, a professional resource for owners, operators and speci-

fiers to learn about protecting water and wastewater service assets and combating corrosion. Waterblog will be a convenient tool for discussing the many considerations involved in proper material selection, surface preparation, application and inspection.

California Develops Green Building Standards Code



The California Building Standards Commission has announced a new Green Building

Standards Code. The code, which took effect on Aug. 1, encourages the design of buildings that reduce potable water use by 20%, establishing specific methods for controlling water use through plumbing fixtures and indoor and landscape water conservation.

Survey Finds Water Top Global Environmental Concern



A survey commissioned by Circle of Blue and conducted by Toronto and London-based GlobeScan found that people across the globe view the fresh

water crisis as the top environmental problem. The survey results were announced in Stockholm, Sweden, during World Water Week. Detailed results are available at www.circleofblue.org.

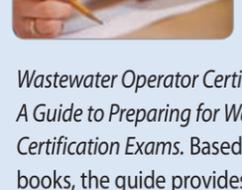
National Science Foundation Funds Water Reuse Research



The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Office of Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation has

awarded \$2 million to University of Arizona Professor Kevin Lansey, head of the department of civil engineering and engineering mechanics, to research water reuse and supply systems. The research project will produce a computer model for water managers who are facing the problem of using less energy while meeting increased demands for water.

AWWA Publishes Wastewater Operator Certification Study Guide



AWWA has published the

Wastewater Operator Certification Study Guide: A Guide to Preparing for Wastewater Treatment Certification Exams. Based on several textbooks, the guide provides questions similar in content and format to questions that appear on state wastewater operator certification exams for Grades I, II, III and IV. Answers and references are included. **WWD**

News compiled by Rebecca Wilhelm, WWD associate editor

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