DNR
BIOSOLIDS/SEPTAGE UPDATE
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Revised 3-17-2014
TODAY’S TOPICS

– STAFF
– REPORTING REMINDER
– DNR GUIDANCE
– WORK GROUP
– FUTURE BUDGETING
– REED BEDS
– ENFORCEMENT
SEPTAGE STAFF

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WPDES PERMIT STAFF

- Fewer changes most recently
- Get to know your DNR contact

Current Vacancies
- CO-2 Engineers
- SER-Limits Drafter
- SER-Permit Drafter
- WCR-Wausau Field Engineer
eREPORTING REMINDER

• Annual Reports were due Jan 31
• Email Reminder
  – Many reports remain late
  – Septage Staff: contacted you
• Please follow requests
  ~2500 Contacts (emails)
• Problems: give your DNR contact a call
DNR GUIDANCE

- Statutes
- Codes (Rules)
  - Agency
  - 36-41 Step Process
  - Approx 4 year Process
- Guidance
DNR GUIDANCE

- Transparency
- 21 Day Comment Period
- Posted on Web
- Sign up for emails for pending guidance

DNR SEPTAGE GUIDANCE

- Statewide Consistency
- Continued Consistency
- Changes of Opinion
- Predictable Responses to unwritten rules
- Roadmap to Code Changes
• Master Operator (MO) Qualifications
  – Advantages to Guidance
  – Work Experience Credits
  – Expected Submittals
  – DNR Activities
WORK GROUP TOPICS

• Absentee OIC Issue
  – “Selling a License”
  – Communication:
    • Letter
    • Email
    • Insert
  – Penalties—Higher Expectations
  – New Businesses—More Focus
WORK GROUP TOPICS

• Emergency OIC Situation
  – Death/Incapacitation
  – Solution:
    • Focus on Small Businesses
    • Department Notifications
      – Step by Step
    • Streamline the Variance Process
    • Clear Expectations
      – Department
      – Business
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

• Biosolids
  – Winter Land Application issues

• Industrial Waste
  – Manure Pit Approvals
  – Site approvals
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Budgets
- No More “Shell” Game
- Septage Program
  - 2.1 FTE Funded
  - 3.8-4.3 FTE
    - Licensing 0.5→1.0
    - Statewide Coordination 0.1→0.35
    - Field 1.5→3.0
SEPTAGE BUDGETING

• UW System Study
  – Septage Program
  – 11 Recommended
  – Actual 2.1

• 1970s (reported)
  – 2 staff—Face time for all

• Times have changed
SEPTAGE BUDGETING

• Consider:
  – What Level of Service do you wish for?
    • Less
    • Same
    • More
  – What responses do you wish for?
    • Annual Reports
    • Licenses
    • Certifications
SEPTAGE BUDGETING

– Complaints
  • Department has obligation to follow up

– Level Playing Field
  • Partnership has limits
  • It costs to Play
REED BEDS

New Information

• Seeds: More viable than initially thought 10-15 yrs ago

• Consider seed impacts:
  – Surveys
  – Reed Harvesting Issues
  – Sludge Removal/Transportation Issues
  – Control & Eradication Efforts
A. Initial state at beginning of operation

Reed (*Phragmites communis*) adapted to sludge, culm density ca. 100 - 300 per m²
Partner Meeting: Jan 7, 2014

- EPA
- Tribal Facilities
- WPDES Permitted Facilities
- DNR WW Staff
- DNR Wetland/Invasive Experts
- Contractor/Consultants
Future Outcomes:

• Guidance Development
  – Surveys, Reed Harvesting, Sludge Harvesting, Transportation

• Incentives:
  – Replace Invasive with Native Variety
RECENT ENFORCEMENT

• STEPPED Enforcement
• Septage Citations
  – County Court
  – DNR Press Release
• DOJ CASE
  – Dept. of Justice
  – Lawsuits—Civil & Criminal
  – DOJ Press Release
• OTHER STATES
REVIEW

– STAFF
– REPORTING REMINDER
– DNR GUIDANCE
– WORK GROUP
– FUTURE BUDGETING
– REED BEDS
– ENFORCEMENT
THANK YOU

Thanks for attending...
...see you next year!