Various Perspectives

• Panel Discussion
  – California Experience
  – Wisconsin Regulations (Overview)
  – Septage
  – Industrial Waste (Land Application Contractor)
  – Biosolids
Kern County-California

Background

• Los Angeles County land applies biosolids to a farm owned by LA County...located in Kern County

• Kern County residents passed Measure E by 83% of the vote in June 2006.

• Measure E banned the application of biosolids on farmland.

• Resulted in Ongoing Lawsuit
Kern County-California

Two Issues impacted Kern County’s Lawsuit

• US EPA approved biosolids application on farmland

• California Integrated Waste Management Act encourages the practice to recycle biosolids
Kern County-California

• Tulare County Superior Court Judge Hicks:
  – Kern County could not show that any human or animal has been harmed by biosolids
  – Current scientific tools do not show a problem

• Results
  – NO Prohibition of biosolids
  – However, all land application in Kern County requires EQ treatment
283.82 Land application of sewage sludge. (1) The department shall oversee, set technical standards for, and regulate the application of sewage sludge to land.

(2) No city, village, town, or county may prohibit, through zoning or any other means, the application of sewage sludge to land if that application complies with this section and rules promulgated under this section.

(3) A city, village, town, or county may regulate the application of sewage sludge to land if the regulation is identical to regulations of the department under sub. (1).

History: 2005 a. 347.
(5p) Limit on local regulation. No city, village, town, or county may prohibit or regulate, through zoning or any other means, the disposal of septage on land if that disposal complies with this section and rules promulgated under this section or with an ordinance adopted under sub. (5m) (a) or (b).
Emerging Issues

- PFOS: Perfluorooctane sulfonate
- PFOA: Perfluorooctanoic acid
- Water & LIPID (fat) resistant
- Used as
  - Waterproof
  - Stain Resistant
  - Non-Stick
  - Fire Retardants
  - Paper & Packaging for Food
  - Cleaning Products
- Easily Dispersed into environment
- Not easily broken down
- Found in 98% of blood samples collected
- Drinking water is a concern
  - Activated Charcoal & Reverse Osmosis can remove these
- Always Emerging Issues
  - Will always need to address the issues
  - Public Relations will always be important
Complaints to DNR

• Complaints
  – Sometimes credible
  – Sometimes NOT

• Many times folks simply are asking questions
  – They want to be informed
  – The internet may be the only place they would gather other information

• Be proactive
  – Why are you land applying wastes
  – Concealing your activities raise questions
  – Know your facts
  – Septage vs. Septic Systems