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## Ohio EPA Proposes Revisions to Sewage Sludge Rules

Following two previous comment periods, Ohio EPA is now formally proposing rules that govern the management and beneficial use of sewage sludge or biosolids. The rules are at least as stringent as federal standards. Ohio EPA will accept comments on the proposed changes through June 7, 2010.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held at 10:30 a.m. on June 7, 2010, at Ohio EPA's headquarters in conference room A, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus.

A couple of the more significant changes since the last draft include:

- The rule would prohibit the surface application of biosolids to land from December 15 through March 1, when frozen or snow-covered conditions are more likely to occur; Ohio EPA considers this necessary to ensure that polluted runoff does not enter surface waters. This could require improved storage management of biosolids.
- The rule would require screening of all biosolids designated for beneficial uses. While this would create an upfront cost for some sewage treatment plants for screen installation, biosolids quality would be expected to improve as inert wastes that do not degrade in the treatment process would be nearly eliminated from reusable end products. The proposed rule sets the maximum screen opening at 5/8 inch, larger than the 3/8 inch opening called for in the last draft.

The monitoring frequency of metals would match federal regulations. Ohio EPA believes these requirements would allow lower monitoring costs for permittees while still being protective of public health and the environment.

At the close of the comment period, Ohio EPA will review comments and determine if any additional changes will be made to the proposed rules. The rules will be filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review of the Legislature. After any final revisions are made and all reviews cleared, the rules would be adopted.

For more information about the proposed rules or to receive a copy of the rules, please contact Jacob Howdyshell at (614) 644-2018 or [jacob.howdyshell@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:jacob.howdyshell@epa.state.oh.us). The proposed rules also are available at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/rules/drafrules.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/rules/drafrules.aspx).

Written testimony can be sent to Jacob Howdyshell at the email address above, or mailed to Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 by June 7, 2010.

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