



VA/MD Wet Weather Crisis

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Virginia Biosolids Council (Advantus)



Biosolids in VA

2018: 111,549 DT land applied/recycled
2018: 33,549 acres
2019: 133,446 DT land applied/recycled
2019: 47,792 acres (Class B and EQ)



'18 weather conditions

Virginia

- 2018 was the wettest year on record for several towns and cities in Virginia - increased precipitation was widespread.
- Areas along Blue Ridge saw >80 inches of precipitation.
- Days with precipitation (any) >185 days
- Days with precipitation >1" 20 days
- Rainfall in Richmond was No. 2 all-time in 2018.



'18 weather conditions

Maryland

- 2018 was the wettest year on record for several cities, including Baltimore
- Baltimore received 82" of rain; a normal year is ~48"
- Days with precipitation (any) 145 days
- Central Md. precipitation >2 ft. above normal



We have a problem! VA

- VBC Annual Meeting Nov. 28, 2018
- Joint VBC/VAMWA letter to DEQ Dec. 7, 2018
- Ongoing dialogue with DEQ
- Conference Call with landfill representatives: Jan. 7, 2019
- DEQ Meeting: Feb. 1, 2019



We have a problem! MD

- Alerted to challenges in ~Dec. 15, 2018
- Meeting held with MDE, MAMWA Jan. 3, 2019
- Negotiated template with MDE for emergency storage (nothing actually implemented)
- Unknown percentage of biosolids stored in VA came from MD



Storage landscape

- Contracted storage sites over capacity
- On-site POTW storage at capacity (OVER)
- Landfilling not an option – decreasing acceptance of ALL wet waste.
- Self-disclosed non-compliance (non punitive)
- Active and engaged communication/coordination with DEQ
- Protect impact to water quality – PRIORITY
- Act of God (VA)
 - (32 references in Va Code – but not in Biosolids regulations)

Communication

The challenge with rain and snow!



Rain and snow.

By Ed Edmondson, City of Richmond

Rain I get ... and I also get the love/hate we have with snow.

As manager of a facility that treats water, I am keenly aware of water – the effect it has on low-lying areas, our watershed — the James River — and our utility operations. Water, in the form of rain, sleet, snow or ice creates challenges for plant operations, large construction projects, farming, and other outdoor activities. In 2018 the City of Richmond experienced historic rainfall. Last year, Richmond had 190 days of measurable precipitation, a record-setting 63.5 inches of rain. The last time Richmond had this much rain was in 1889 when a record 71 inches of rain fell.

- Developed communications plan with key messages re. storage and data for use by POTW and contractors
- Active information on website; E-newsletter
- Almost daily communication with DEQ regulators



Henrico



Henrico



Cumberland





City of Richmond

Somewhere in PA





VBC Storage Committee

- **Chair: Hahns Hairston**
 - Review and provide summary of existing regulations associated with biosolids storage
 - Identify concerns of VBC utility members and contractors
 - Evaluate how other states address emergency storage of biosolids
 - Evaluate existing landfill environment in Virginia
 - Evaluate concerns/issues of solid waste companies operating in Virginia
 - Discuss storage challenges with DEQ and evaluate potential changes/recommendations
 - Develop recommendations