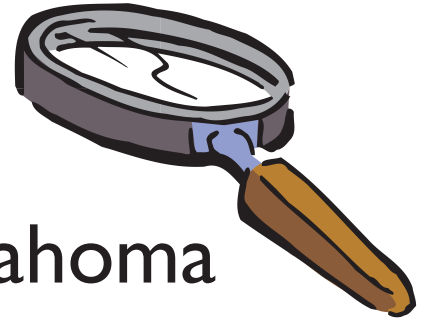


WATER



Biosolids Management in Oklahoma Evaluating a Biosolids Management Program

The Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Approach to evaluating a Municipal Biosolids Management Program:

The evaluation of a municipal biosolids management program can be simplified with basic universal criteria. With each program to be evaluated, certain information will be consistently available. These include a state approved biosolids management plan, a record of biosolids management activities by the municipality, and a survey of participants to identify positive and negative impacts of the biosolids management program's activities.

Regardless of the size of the community, volume of biosolids produced, nature of biosolids, biosolids treatment techniques, number of application sites, total acreage of application sites, local soil characteristics, or local climatic conditions, the evaluation procedures remain consistent.

Before the original approval, each biosolids management plan is

carefully reviewed for consistency with federal and state regulations and standards. Upon approval of the municipality's proposed biosolids handling procedures, the selected application sites, and permissible application rates, land application of biosolids may begin with concise and accurate record keeping and reporting.

The evaluation of a biosolids management program begins with a review of the existing approved plan. It must be determined if the existing plan is still appropriate for the needs of the municipality and if any enhancements or revisions may be desired. The plan is also reviewed for compliance with any new federal and state regulations and standards. A summary of changes recommended or required is prepared.

A review of the municipality's compliance record is also necessary. Required activity reports and analytical data are examined

to determine consistency with the contents of the approved biosolids management plan. This enables the reviewers to decide if management procedures are followed and to interpret variances in biosolids quality and characteristics. Reported spills, complaints received, or other compliance related information is pertinent to a complete review.

This feedback provides the subjective information related to equipment compatibility to treat and handle the product and public acceptance of the technology chosen. Finally, participants in the biosolids management program, from the municipal employees handling the biosolids to the land owners who accept it.

Taken together, this review format completes the basic evaluation of a biosolids management program. Conclusions and recommendations will be formulated that will benefit the municipality and the local environment.

