



# Department of Environmental Protection

Western Regional Office • 436 Dwight Street, Springfield MA 01103 • 413-784-1100

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

## **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Guidance on Managing Wastewater Sludge During COVID-19**

- The Commonwealth is facing unprecedented challenges during the outbreak of COVID-19. It is evident from the number of calls and emails we have received that wastewater treatment plant operators and sludge disposal and biosolids reuse facilities are deeply concerned about the health and safety of their staffs and their abilities to continue operating the infrastructure that is critical to the public health. MassDEP has engaged all of its resources to respond to the concerns at this critical time, and will do so as long as these unusual circumstances persist. This document provides some responses and includes a list of potential facilities in the event normal operations are disrupted.
- All Massachusetts wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are required to have a backup option for sludge disposal should their primary option become unavailable. As a first step, a WWTP should review its plan for backup sludge disposal and contact its backup disposal location to determine if that facility is still operating or has implemented any restrictions.
- Massachusetts wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) have expressed concerns about impacts that the coronavirus (COVID-19) may have on management of sludge, including:
  - Facilities that process sludge may not be able to operate sludge processing operations (e.g., incinerators) if staff trained to run these operations become ill and are unable to work
  - Facilities that dispose of sludge offsite may find the disposal location unavailable due to staff illness. Facilities may have either shut down, or are on operating on a more limited basis
- Facilities with onsite sludge processing should begin identifying how they might bring in additional trained operators with the skills needed to keep operations running. For facilities with incinerators, they may consider looking to Connecticut and Rhode Island, where there are more trained incinerator operators due to the greater number of incinerators in those states. Additional information about staffing concerns has been provided in MassDEP's Q&A document on wastewater operations and COVID-19.
- To help facilities identify additional options for sludge disposal, MassDEP has compiled the following list of facilities in New England and outside of New England within fairly close proximity that also accept sludge.

## Sludge disposal options in New England<sup>1</sup>

### Incinerators

| Facility                  | Owner/Operator        | Accepts Wastewater Solids from MA?         | Contact Information (if available) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Upper Blackstone WPCF     | Upper Blackstone      | Yes, but more selective than before        | (508) 755-1286                     |
| Hartford WPCF, CT         | MDC                   | Yes, but less than before                  | 860-278-7850                       |
| New Haven, CT             | Synagro               | Yes, but less than before                  | (203) 469-0402                     |
| Mattabassett-Cromwell, CT | Mattabassett District | Takes in liquid only, but less than before | (860) 635-5550                     |
| Naugatuck, CT             | Veolia                | Yes  | (203) 723-1433                     |
| Waterbury, CT             | West Haven            | Yes  | (203) 597-3444                     |
| Cranston, RI              | Veolia                | Yes  | (401) 467-7210                     |
| Woonsocket, RI            | Synagro               | Yes  | (401) 765-6764                     |

### Beneficial Reuse

| Facility/ Location                                   | Owner/ Operator              | Accepts Wastewater Solids from MA? | Notes  | Contact Information (if available) |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Residuals Management Facility (RMI), New Hampton, NH | Resource Management Inc.     | Some                               | Facility not promoting availability for new material due to capacity limitations.                        | April Sargent, (603) 536-8900      |
| Merrimack Compost, Merrimack, NH                     | Town of Merrimack, NH        | Potentially                        | NHSDDES requires testing for new material including PFAS.  | Leo Gaudette, 603-883-8196         |
| Hawk Ridge Compost Facility, Unity, ME               | Casella Organics             | Some                               | Cannot accept new sludge without a MEDEP license change. Requires testing of new material including PFAS | Mary Waring, 207-347-3609          |
| Ipswich Compost, Ipswich, MA                         | Agresource & Town of Ipswich | Yes                                |  | Geoffrey Kuter, 508-328-6246       |

<sup>1</sup> Information was compiled from different sources, some of which dates back to 2016. MassDEP cannot guarantee all information about whether facility is still operating or accepting outside sludge is still up to date.

| <b>Facility/<br/>Location</b>                         | <b>Owner/<br/>Operator</b> | <b>Accepts<br/>Wastewater<br/>Solids from<br/>MA?</b> | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Contact Information<br/>(if available)</b> |
|---|----------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Mass Water Resource Authority, Quincy, MA             | NEFCO                      | Unsure  |              |   |
| Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, North Andover, MA | Synagro                    | Unsure  |              |   |

### **Landfills**

| <b>Facility/ Location</b>             | <b>Owner/<br/>Operator</b> | <b>Accepts<br/>Wastewater<br/>Solids from<br/>MA?</b> | <b>Notes</b>  | <b>Contact Information<br/>(if available)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Waste USA Landfill, Coventry, VT      | Casella                    | Yes   | The facility already accepts a lot of WW sludge from MA. According to VT DEC there is a potential for capacity and odor concerns should there be a sudden surge in application. | 888-485-1469                                  |
| Bethlehem Landfill, Bethlehem, NH     | Casella                    | Yes   |   | 888-485-1469                                  |
| Turnkey Landfill, Rochester, NH       | Waste Management           | Yes, but mostly from NH                               |   | 800-963-4776                                  |
| Crossroads Landfill, Norridgewock, ME | Waste Management           | Yes   |   | (207) 634-2714                                |

## Sludge disposal options outside of New England<sup>2,3</sup>

### Incinerators

| Facility                   | Location          | Notes | Contact Information (if available) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Fort Edward                | Fort Edward, NY   |       |                                    |
| Atlantic Country UA        | Pleasantville, NJ |       | 609-272-6944                       |
| Northwest Bergen County UA | Waldwick, NJ      |       | 201-447-2660                       |
| Somerset-Raritan Valley SA | Bridgewater, NJ   |       | 732-469-0593                       |
| Stony Brook Regional SA    | Princeton, NJ     |       | 609-924-8881                       |

### Beneficial Reuse

| Facility                                 | Location                 | Notes   | Contact Information (if available)        |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Grasslands Facility                      | Chateaugay, NY           | NYSDEC requires a request for usage for out of state material. PFAS testing not required currently. | 800-933-6474                              |
| Denali Water Solutions                   | West Henrietta, NY       | NYSDEC requires a request for usage for out of state material. PFAS testing not required currently. | 479-498-0500                              |
| Englobe <sup>4</sup>                     | Sherbrooke, Quebec       |   | Nicholas S. Leblanc, 819-829-0101 X182033 |
| TransAqua                                | Riverview, New Brunswick |   |   |
| Lystek                                   | Cambridge, Ontario       |   |   |
| Ash Lane Farms                           | Bridgeton, NJ            |   | 856-455-1416                              |
| Burlington County Co-Composting Facility | Columbus, NJ             |   | 609-499-7805                              |

<sup>2</sup> MassDEP does not have information about whether or not all of these facilities would accept sludge from MA.

<sup>3</sup> New Jersey DEP requires submittal of Form R for out of state material to be disposed at a sludge management facility in NJ. The domestic form is applicable to municipal sludge. The industrial form is applicable to water treatment plant sludge.

<sup>4</sup> Englobe can receive sludge next day as an emergency measure. Typically, next day processing must be for compost facilities, which means it cannot accept extremely large quantities (~30,000 tons maximum), is more expensive, and product must be at least 15% solids. Englobe does not accept sludge treated with lime. For longer term options, Englobe requires about 3-6 months for full approval.

**Landfills**

| <b>Facility</b>                                 | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Contact Information (if available)</b> |
|---|------------------|---|
| Albany Solid Waste Management Facility          | Albany, NY       | (518) 869-3651                            |
| Delaware County Solid Waste Management Facility | Delhi, NY        | 607-865-5805 ext 216                      |
| Franklin County Regional Landfill               | Constable, NY    | (518) 481-1693                            |
| Fulton County Landfill                          | Johnstown, NY    |   |
| Development Auth. of the North Country Landfill | Watertown, NY    |   |
| Ava Landfill                                    | Utica, NY        |   |
| Chenango County Landfill                        | Norwich, NY      |   |
| Cortland County Landfill                        | Cortland, NY     |   |
| Madison County Landfill                         | Wampersville, NY |   |
| Ontario County Sanitary Landfill                | Canandaigua, NY  |   |
| Seneca Meadows Landfill                         | Waterloo, NY     |   |
| Allegany County Landfill                        | Belmont, NY      |   |
| Hyland Landfill                                 | Angelica, NY     |   |
| Chautauqua Landfill                             | Mayville, NY     |   |
| Chaffee Landfill                                | Chaffee, NY      |   |

**Other Residuals Processing**

| <b>Facility</b>                       | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Contact Information (if available)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners | Newark, NJ       | 973-817-5710                              |
| Mount Holly MUA                       | Mount Holly, NJ  | 609-267-0015                              |
| Parsippany-Troy Hills                 | Parsippany, NJ   | 973-428-7593                              |
| SpectrServ Transfer Station           | South Kearny, NJ |   |