

December 6, 2019

PFAS Task Force
Dr. Meredith Tipton, Chair

Re: comments on the final report

Dear Dr. Tipton and task force members:

Thank you for the time you have put forth so that the professionals assembled could collaborate on this emerging concern of PFAS and finalize a report for Governor Mills. I feel very strongly that the wastewater and biosolids industry continues to be a major target in the PFAS contamination in our great State of Maine.

From the wastewater side, our number one priority is the protection of human health in which our facilities do without much fanfare or notice from the public. Our customers continue to use water without realizing what happens to the water once they are finished with it. The compounds they use on a daily basis maybe promulgating to the PFAS levels in our biosolids. Not only specific chemicals but everyday household items maybe delivering small traces of PFAS compounds. I feel the wastewater industry is at a disadvantage due to the complexities with the overall water usage regarding the ultimate respect for our precious resource-water.

Wastewater facilities operate round the clock with massive amounts of assets worth millions of dollars. Some of these assets have been designed to help reduce the amount of biosolids produced therefore less biosolids being introduced to our environment. Wastewater facilities will always produce biosolids and must have safe viable options for disposal. It has been proven that the beneficial use program has saved municipalities tremendous amounts of money over the course of decades with a superior safe track record.

The Arundel Dairy farm appears to be an anomaly amongst land spreading programs. I feel I can state this as I was an operator who was working for the municipality who was spreading the biosolids. Never once did we fathom the idea that we were doing wrong. In fact, all of the farmers in our program were happy to have their hay production increase from the slow release of nitrogen and phosphorus within the biosolids. Ultimately less chemical fertilizer applied.

I have mentioned that we should focus on more household hazardous waste collection days. These events have proven to properly remove some of the PFAS chemicals in our households and businesses. If we do not have these events, there is a great risk our customers will release the chemicals down the drains which may affect the biosolids coming out of the facilities

I feel the task force has developed some great strategies to help solve the PFAS problem. We need to continue to educate and inform the issues associated with PFAS to the public. It is my opinion that we must let the science develop so we can fully understand complex issue with these "forever chemicals".

Sincerely,

André Brousseau