



**“WEAO WILL BE THE PREEMINENT ORGANIZATION OF
TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND
ENHANCEMENT OF ONTARIO’S WATER
ENVIRONMENT”**

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Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Via Fax: 416-325-4437

Re: Comments on behalf of the Water Environment Association of Ontario
*Draft: Guide for the Beneficial Use of Non-Agricultural Source
Materials on Agricultural Land*
EBR Number: PA04E0008

Dear Ms. Koskenoja,

The Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) represents over 1,200 technical and professional individuals dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Ontario’s water environment. Part I of our submission (attached) provides more information about the WEAO.

The WEAO appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Guide for the Beneficial Use of Non-Agricultural Source Materials on Agricultural Land (the NASM Guide) on behalf of its membership. Beneficial use of biosolids on agricultural land has been practised widely in Ontario since the development of guidelines in the mid-1970’s. In fact, land application is the preferred biosolids management option for more than 80% of Ontario municipalities. During the 30-year history, no adverse effects on human or animal health, crop productivity, or the environment have been documented around well-managed biosolids land application sites in Ontario. It is important to our membership that application of biosolids to agricultural land remains a viable end use option.

Part II of our submission provides some general comments on the proposed NASM Guide, followed by specific comments referenced to sections of the NASM Guide. We have adopted the principle of sound scientific knowledge and effective technology in making our comments, as well as reasonable implementation timelines, and we trust they will be useful in finalizing the NASM Guide.

**34th ANNUAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION
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In particular, the WEAO is concerned about the duplication in the regulation of biosolids land application activities. We recommend that biosolids management be removed from the *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and be managed only through the *Nutrient Management Act* (NMA). This will simplify the ability of generators and managers to manage biosolids, to ensure reliability and consistency of management practices and minimize costly and time-consuming duplication of efforts.

In addition, generators have been anticipating the requirements of the NMA to come in effect according to the phasing in schedules in the NMA regulations. This NASM Guide implements these requirements but does not follow the NMA phasing in schedule. Generators require time to assess the implications of the changes required and put in place plans for compliance. It is recommended that the proposed NASM Guide not come into effect for at least a one year period following its release in final form, prior to the beginning of the land application season (i.e. Before April 1), and that it be phased in after that in a manner consistent with the NMA regulations.

Our members are also concerned about delays in receiving approvals, the previously proposed communication and notification requirements, the lack of accredited methods for dewatered biosolids analysis, and the removal of the biosolids blending options. Further detail about these concerns is provided in our submission, along with recommendations. We strongly urge the Province to consider the concerns stated in this submission and we trust they will be of assistance in your efforts to finalize the NASM Guide.

We look forward to further discussion with the Ministry and participation in future stakeholder consultation relating to biosolids. The WEAO respectfully submits the attached document, which presents our comments on the Draft Guide for the Beneficial Use of Non-Agricultural Source Materials on Agricultural Land.

Yours truly,



David Hein
WEAO President 2004-2005



Mark Rupke
Vice-Chair, WEAO Biosolids Committee

Attachments: WEAO Submission on EBR No. PA04E0008

c.c. WEAO Board of Directors,
WEAO Government Affairs Committee, WEAO Biosolids Committee
Julie Vincent, WEAO Executive Administrator, WEAO E-newsletter and website