



WEF EMS Committee

Winter 2010 Update

News from the
Water Environment Federation
Environmental Management System Committee
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WELCOME! The committee's goal is to encourage water environment professionals to adopt environmental management systems (EMSs). This newsletter aims to keep committee members and colleagues informed of EMS developments, and of opportunities to get involved in activities. Please send news and information to Caroline G. Hemenway at chemenway@hemenwayinc.com. **Contact information for people cited is at the end of this issue.**

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

WEF EMS Committee website includes committee scope, EMS resources, EMS newsletters, and list of committee leaders. Please visit the updated EMS committee webpages and contact Rob Schweinfurth if you have updates and any suggested additions to the pages.

<http://www.wef.org/MembershipCareers/MembershipInformation/CommitteeList/EnvironmentalManagementSystems.htm>.

The EMS SharePoint site for work tasks is <http://sharepoint.wef.org/ems>; contact Rob Schweinfurth for access. The current site contains the following information:

- ◆ Calendar for 2010
- ◆ Tasks
- ◆ Agendas and minutes from meetings and conference calls
- ◆ Member association documents
- ◆ Committee interaction with national biosolids partnership
- ◆ Newsletters
- ◆ Reports
- ◆ Roster
- ◆ Technical practice update documents
- ◆ Committee training events

Next WEF EMS Committee meeting: February 21, 2010, 10:30-11:30 am Pacific time, at The Utility Management Conference, Intercontinental San Francisco, CA. Conference call-in number: 888-566-1085; code 617240#. Please contact Tom Pedersen to RSVP. Topics include workplan and project updates and mid-year debrief.

To join WEF, go to: <http://www.wef.org/MembershipCareers/MembershipInformation/JoinWEF/>.

For an application to join the EMS Committee, go to:
<http://www.wefnet.org/onlineform/CommitteeMembership/CommitteeMembershipApplication.asp>.

CALENDAR

2010: EMS webinars. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, US EPA, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia EMS Association (VEMSA) are holding a series of EMS webinars over the next year. They also are planning their annual EMS conference for October 2010. **April 14, 2010: Green Purchasing** – Addresses upfront costs as a common barrier to implementing energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy projects. **May 19, 2010: Energy Assessments and Audits** – Helps agencies begin following a green procurement strategy. A webinar on incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy was held February 3 following an earlier webinar on auditing. <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/veep/links.html>; <http://www.deq.state.va.us/veep/association.html>

March 7-10, 2010, Boston, MA: Cities of the Future 2010 conference. Population growth, social inequity, economic turmoil, climate change, water shortages, and environmental degradation are placing unprecedented stress on infrastructure and ecosystems while technological advances, volunteerism, and sustainability movements offer promise for solutions. Bringing together engineers, scientists, urban planners, sociologists, urban ecologists, architects, landscape architects, developers, transportation engineers, economists, political scientists, city managers, and public officials, Cities of the Future 2010 will connect energy-efficient engineered infrastructure with green, water-centric landscapes to protect and conserve water resources, reduce energy intensity and associated carbon footprints, and improve economic vitality and quality of life. The conference is organized jointly by WEF and the International Water Association (IWA) in cooperation with the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF). The 2010 conference will be co-located with the WEF Urban River Restoration conference and WEF is offering special savings and incentives to attendees, including “register one, bring a colleague free.”
<http://www.wef.org/CitiesoftheFuture/>

March 7-10, 2010, Boston, MA: Urban River Restoration 2010 conference. Co-located with the Cities of the Future 2010 Conference (see above), this will focus on the role of revitalized urban rivers and waterfronts within the context of two major trends: an increased focus on sustainable practices to benefit the environment, and a population shift back to cities, which leads to a renewed emphasis on a livable urban environment.
<http://www.wef.org/UrbanRiver/>

May 23-26, 2010, Savannah, GA: Specialty Conference on Residuals and Biosolids Management. WEF’s Residuals and Biosolids Committee, in cooperation with the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the International Water Association, is sponsoring a specialty conference on residuals and biosolids management at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. This conference is the 24th annual WEF specialty conference on this subject and the theme of the conference is “Leveraging Biosolids in the Energy-Climate Era.” One of the topics is EMSs. EMS Committee chair Tom Pedersen presented a module on EMS Fence Lines during the NBP workshop at the 2009 meeting in Oregon. <http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids/>

October 2-6, 2010, New Orleans: WEFTEC’10. It’s never too early to plan! The EMS Committee is holding a workshop, “EMS: A Key to Effective Utility Management,” tentatively scheduled for October 2. Contact Andy Kricun for information or to volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping with EMS Committee activities, or know someone who is, please contact Andy Kricun. Volunteers are particularly needed for the following:

- ◆ **Reporting for this newsletter.** We greatly need help gathering print-ready items to spread the workload and streamline production. Contact Caroline Hemenway at chemenway@hemenwayinc.com.
- ◆ Developing materials for an **information packet**.
- ◆ Serving as **liaison** to a WEF Member Association (MA) (See list of current MA liaisons below.)
- ◆ Developing and implementing ideas for a **committee membership campaign**. We think we’ve got a good thing going here, and we’d like to spread the word. Will you help?
- ◆ **Coordinating website content** – We have a good opportunity to disseminate information to the public and within the committee but need one or two people to work with WEF to develop and keep this site populated.

Did You Hear...? (Latest and greatest news)

DC WASA EMS credited for surviving Snowzilla. Chris Peot, director the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's biosolids program, credited the National Biosolids EMS program with allowing the agency to continue processing biosolids throughout the back-to-back snow emergencies in early February when more than 30 inches of snow was dumped on the region. Excellent communication and cooperation between contractors, agency staff, and departments promoted innovative solutions as land sites became unspreadable. Through an intra-plant hauling contract with Urban Service Systems, two front-end loaders stored onsite were used to clear roads so biosolids and chemical trucks could enter and exit the plant. Urban also kept two biosolids trucks onsite for intra-plant hauling; with winds gusting more than 50 mph, the contractor and staff safely stored biosolids in a sheltered area for later removal. Through the EMS program, DC WASA, Urban, and Recyc Systems, Inc. already had contingencies for offsite biosolids storage and use when land application was not available, as during the storm, including a contract with McGill Environmental Systems for composting and contracts with more than five landfill operations. The emergency response is being documented for improvements to the system.

EMS Committee votes to merge with WEF Utility Management Committee (UMC). In December 2009, WEF EMS Committee members agreed to become part of UMC as a subcommittee to leverage the vitality of the work both groups conduct, and encourage utility managers to consider the value and benefits of undertaking an EMS at their facilities. A merger proposal is being developed. Jeanette Klamm, Peter Ruffier, Andy Kricun, Jim Horne, and Tom Pedersen have volunteered to serve on the merger task force and are accepting input from the EMS Committee. Among the reasons cited for this decision is that the marketplace has changed and utilities and EMSs are being integrated into many WEF activities. In addition, utility managers, one of the EMS Committee's key target audiences, are more represented in the UMC.

Palm Bay, FL, Utilities Department receives numerous awards and benefits attributable to EMS. Palm Bay continues to reap rewards for its EMS program. Last year, this newsletter reported that Standard and Poor's, the world's foremost source of credit ratings, had raised Palm Bay's Water and Sewer Improvement bond rating from 'A-' to "A," allowing the utility to borrow at a lower interest rate. Here are a few more benefits noted by Dan Roberts, assistant director of the utilities department. The utility:

- ◆ Is working with Alliance for Progress, a unique partnership of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and Arizona State University (ASU) and its School of Public Affairs to develop an online recorded webinar on transforming local government.
- ◆ Got front-page billing in the Jan/Feb 2010 *WEF Newsletter* in an article describing how implementation and use of the EMS institutionalized the five keys to management success identified in the *2008 Effective Utility Management, A Primer for Water and Wastewater*.
- ◆ Is a case study in the *Government Financial Review* (GFR), December 2009 issue – Palm Bay had forwarded its case study to the National Performance Management Advisory Committee and it was recommended to the GFR for publication. That article promoted the performance management attributes and benefits of an EMS.
- ◆ Has an abstract under review by the Florida Water Resource Council for a paper and panel discussion at the Florida Water Resources Conference annual conference.

Roberts reports that the EMS has been a springboard for stimulus funding and is being leveraged by the city for continued stimulus/AARA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) funding. The city received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), but before expending the funds, the city was required to develop and submit an energy efficiency and conservation strategy (EECS) for review and approval to the US EPA. Roberts states: "Shaw Environmental won the competition for development of the submittal and has been impressed with our EMS, stating it was one of the best they have seen and briefing the city council with a short list of proposed objectives – one being the 'Replication of the Utility's Success in Other Departments.' We are communicating our objectives, targets, and programs focused on our significant environmental aspects/impacts affecting triple-bottom-line sustainability principles (economic, environment, and social) and we are in a great position to positively influence the utility's future and the city's." <http://www.palmbayflorida.org/>

Texas groups launch regional partnership case study project. The Zero Waste Network has partnered with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to document the process of forming a regional partnership. The project is focuses on measuring the results of the regional partnership to promote EMSs in North Texas. The purpose of the case study is to help other regions in their efforts promote partnerships among multiple state, local, federal, and private entities. The website includes resources and serves as a "how-to" kit. <http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/Documents/EMSCaseStudies/>

WEF publishes EMS technical practice update (TPU). WEF's Technical Practice Committee published a TPU titled *Environmental Management Systems: Advancing Sustainability* in October 2009 with input from several EMS Committee members, among many others. It contains information on current knowledge and practices, how to incorporate sustainability into operations, measures of accountability, tools to develop a system, integrated management system approaches, and reporting. It also considers energy, greenhouse gas, and other management systems. TPUs are unique resources for those who need timely and accurate information on emerging technical topics. WEF members may obtain TPUs at no charge; others may purchase them. <http://www.wef.org/Publications/page.aspx?id=112>

EMS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN UPDATES

EMS Committee 2009 workplan report. The WEF EMS Committee met its goals for 2009. Members addressed the value and methods of implementing EMSs through presentations at WEFTEC and other conferences and meetings, work developing technical and best management practice updates, contributions to the US EPA PEER Center, and collaboration with other WEF committees and professional associations. The 2009 workplan projects were mostly completed, and many of the tasks are expected to continue into 2010. The committee now has 32 members, and there are 15 liaisons to WEF member associations. Areas that still need to be completed include developing and disseminating an information packet, and developing and producing webinars.

The 2009 workplan established the following mission, guiding principles, and goals for the committee, which are being reviewed for 2010:

Mission: To advance the understanding of environmental management systems (EMS) and promote their adoption by water environment professionals.

Guiding Principles: In all committee activities: Use management system principles. Apply Plan-Do-Check-Act (P-D-C-A) philosophy. Work towards continual improvement. Focus on the needs of water environment professionals.

Goals:

- ◆ Increase the understanding of the value and relevance of EMS and related management systems by water and wastewater utilities.
- ◆ Demonstrate how the basic P-D-C-A management system philosophy embodied in an EMS can help utilities address operational and organizational challenges including asset management, compliance workforce management, risk reduction, energy efficiency and performance measurement.
- ◆ Collaborate with other WEF Committees and Communities of Practices.
- ◆ Support EPA, and other organizations representing water environment professionals in advancing EMS application.
- ◆ Increase the number of active EMS Committee members.

Following is a final status report on the 2009 priority projects. For more information contact Andy Kricun.

- 1) *EMS Committee Work Plan* – Andy Kricun – Ensure goals are developed, distributed, and reviewed for progress, and complete a revised schedule by November of each year. **Status:** Goals were developed and distributed. Veronica Jensen of Toho Water Authority in FL is tracking progress of EMS task items in a spreadsheet posted on the EMS Committee SharePoint portal. New goals and associated projects were being developed in early 2010. **COMPLETE.**
- 2) *WEFTEC 2009 EMS Workshop* – Grady Coomes – Develop and deliver an excellent workshop to large audience; schedule for WEFTEC'09. **Status:** A workshop proposal titled "Using EMS as a Tool to Reach Utility Goals" has been accepted and is being developed for WEFTEC'10. **MODIFIED.**
- 3) *WEFTEC 2009 EMS Sessions* – Tom Pedersen – EMS papers to be presented in Technical Session 25 - Biosolids Management Using EMS on Monday, October 12, 2009, 1:30pm - 5:00pm in Orange County Convention Center, Room 304F, Level 3 and in Technical Session 56 - Environmental Management Systems: A Key to Effective Utility Management on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, from 8:30am - 12:00pm in Room 308C, Level 3. **Status:** A total of 16 EMS-related papers were presented at WEFTEC'09 in nine sessions. **COMPLETE.**
- 4) *2009 Utility Management Conference EMS Panel* – Peter Maynard. **Status:** A panel session at the AWWA/WEF Joint Utility Conference entitled "Recipe for Effective Utility Management" was held Feb 19, 2009. **COMPLETE.**
- 5) *EMS Webinar* – Jim Horne – Develop and deliver EMS webinar series. Task members: Betsy Delaney, Jeanette Klamm (City of Lawrence), Andy Kricun, Caroline Hemenway, and Jim Newton (Kent County, DE).

Status: Proposal has been developed for submittal to WEF to implement as scheduling and budget allows.

ASSUMED UNDER 2010 PROJECTS.

- 6) *Sustainability 2010 Conference* – Jim Horne – Identify the most effective role for the EMS Committee, working with WEF and conference leadership. Status: This conference has morphed into the Cities of the Future 2010 conference (see calendar item above). Contact Jim Horne. **MODIFIED.**
- 7) *Marketing* – Lisa Douglas, Jim Horne, Andy Kricun, and Rob Schweinfurth – Develop a concise and persuasive information packet to advance EMS application and distribute to WEF members, member associations, municipalities, and utilities. Status: An EMS resource flier has been created and factsheets and other material are being developed. **ASSUMED UNDER 2010 PROJECTS.**
- 8) *Professional Association Liaison* – Jim Horne and Jeanette Klamm – Identify opportunities and approaches to liaise with organizations like NACWA, APWA and others. Status: The committee has 15 member association liaisons and liaisons to three WEF committees and to the National Biosolids Partnership (which includes NACWA and US EPA). There is substantive communication about EMS topics among the organizations. **COMPLETE.**
- 9) *Technical Publications* – Jim Newton – Provide the EMS Committee members with the information for publication in WEF media. Status: A technical practice update (TPU) titled *Environmental Management Systems: Advancing Sustainability* was published in October 2009 with input from EMS Committee members, among others. **COMPLETE.**
- 10) *National Biosolids Partnership Collaboration* – Jeanette Klamm – Participate in NBP EMS workshops. Collaborate on training and speaking opportunities. Keep NBP staff apprised of EMS committee activities and opportunities. Status: The WEF EMS Committee liaison continues to seek opportunities for working with NBP and is exchanging information of interest to both groups. **COMPLETE.**
- 11) *Promote USEPA Peer Center* – Jim Horne and Andy Kricun – Implement activities to maximize the use of, and benefits realized from, the PEER Center website. Specifically, make sure that EMS Committee members know about the benefits of this website and how they can contribute to the site and the quarterly PEER newsletter. Contribute to website’s list of case studies, mentors, etc. Help increase interest in, and use of, this valuable resource. Status: EMS Committee information is being posted to the PEER website and a procedure has been distributed. **COMPLETE.**

Member association liaison report. Andy Kricun reports that, as part of the EMS outreach initiative, he is working with other committee members to develop a short but incisive and compelling information package touting the benefits of EMSs. There are 15 volunteers from within the EMS committee who are liaisons to WEF member associations (MAs) and the plan is to have them distribute the package to agencies through their MAs. They also are working to disseminate EMS-related information on an ongoing basis to their MAs and help utilities that express an interest in EMSs get resources and assistance in implementation. If you want to join this effort or get in touch with one of the liaisons below, contact Andy Kricun.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Rick Bickerstaff – South Carolina | Trudy Johnston – Pennsylvania |
| Wendy Brockbank – Canadian Water and Wastewater Association | Jeanette Klamm – Kansas |
| Lisa Douglas – Missouri | Andy Kricun – New Jersey |
| Nadine Dower – Georgia | Peter Maynard – New England |
| Ramesh Goel – Utah | Jim Newton – Chesapeake WEA |
| James Horne – Washington D.C. | Koren Taylor – Florida |
| David James – Texas | Cynthia Walters – North Carolina |
| | Amy Wyks – Virginia |

CONNECTIONS (Cooperative efforts with other committees and organizations)

National Biosolids Partnership <http://www.biosolids.org> – Liaison Jeanette Klamm – NBP held a meeting of almost two dozen certified agencies in Alexandria, VA, January 20-21, 2010, at which the future of the program was discussed and a proposal was developed for ongoing work. The NBP web page may migrate to WEF or become part of the work conducted by the Residuals and Biosolids Committee. During the January meeting, a key message agencies and WEF were asked to deliver is that the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), WEF, and NBP are alive, well, funded, and committed to the biosolids program.

WEF Residuals and Biosolids Committee – Liaison Jim Newton – No updates.

WEF Sustainability Community of Practice – Liaison Jim Horne – The COP’s Sustainable Utilities Task Force held a conference call on December 18, 2009 to discuss next steps on preparing a compendium of sustainable practices for utilities to consider. As part of this effort, the task force sent out a survey to the EMS and UM Committees asking members to describe potential sustainable practices that could be included in the final

compendium. Results from the survey were to be distributed a review group and a set of draft categories for a future survey were to be discussed and presented at a meeting during the WEF mid-year meeting. Peter Ruffier with the city of Eugene, OR, is chair the task force and Andy Kricun from the Camden County Municipal Utility Authority, NJ, is vice-chair.

WEF Utility Management Committee – Liaison Peter Maynard – See item in “Have You Heard...?” above.

RESOURCES (Latest tools available, good websites, and other keepers)

****New!** EMS development program.** The EMS Institute, through the Center for Organizational and Technical Advancement (COTA) at Virginia Tech, is providing a program and series of EMS development and implementation workshops in 2011 to help local governments manage their environmental issues effectively and efficiently. Faculty from Virginia Tech travel to facilities for a baseline environmental review, provide team and senior management conference calls, and offer ongoing support as utilities develop an EMS. The first workshop is scheduled for March 22-24, 2011. Contact Bob Herbert, COTA Fellow, Virginia Tech; 540-853-8275; bherbert@vt.edu. <http://www.peercenter.net/ewebeditpro/items/O73F22505.pdf>; <http://www.cota.vt.edu/content/index.html>

US EPA Energy and water management activities. Over the last year, EPA’s Office of Water, with WEF Member Associations, sponsored a highly successful series of energy management workshops whose focus was on explaining how the Plan-Do-Check-Act methodology embodied in environmental management systems can be used to help utilities identify and manage their energy challenges, using the *Energy Management Guidebook for Wastewater and Water Utilities* developed by EPA with significant input from members of the WEF EMS Committee and other utilities. Information about these workshops can be found at <http://www.peercenter.net/ewebeditpro/items/O73F22367.pdf>. The *Guidebook*, and many other EPA activities and resources in this area, can be found at http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/bettermanagement_energy.html

The WEF Utility Management Committee has posted numerous EMS resources on its website, including presentations from webcasts, the EPA handbook on sustainability, an EMS and asset management pamphlet, case studies, and other tools. <http://www.wef.org/ScienceTechnologyResources/AccessWaterKnowledge/UtilityManagement/UM-EMSResources.htm>

Water Associations, US EPA release case studies for effective utility management practices. Six associations representing the US water and wastewater sector, in collaboration with the US EPA, have released *Effective Water and Wastewater Utility Management Case Studies*, a companion document to last year’s *Effective Utility Management: A Primer for Water and Wastewater Utilities*. This companion piece provides concrete examples and “how to” assistance for utility managers through profiles of four utilities that successfully applied the Primer concepts and tools to advance effective management practices and achieve long-term sustainability.

The Effective Utility Management (EUM) collaborating associations – the American Public Works Association (APWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and EPA – have been working together to promote effective utility management across the water sector.

The primer provides a step-by-step approach for assessing operations based on the ten attributes of effectively managed utilities and five keys to management success first identified in a report released by the group in May 2007. This tool is designed to help water and wastewater utility managers assess their operations based on the attributes, set priorities, establish performance measures, and make practical, systematic changes to achieve excellence in utility performance. The primer is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/bettermanagement.html>.

In addition to the primer (available in PDF and as a new interactive tool) and the case studies document, the EUM has an online resource toolbox that contains links to key resources and tools. These resources can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.watereum.org>.

For more information about the partnering organizations, visit: AMWA at <http://www.amwa.net>; APWA at <http://www.apwa.net>; AWWA at <http://www.awwa.org>; NACWA at <http://www.nacwa.org>; NAWC at <http://www.nawc.org>; WEF at <http://www.wef.org>; and EPA at <http://www.epa.gov>.

EMS case studies from Virginia utilities. The Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA) at Virginia Tech hosted a series of four ISO 14001 EMS implementation workshops in 2007-2008 at

which representatives from utilities throughout Virginia participated to develop their EMSs. Case studies were compiled from the workshop participants and focused on the following topics: Core team members; key drivers for adopting an EMS; significant aspects, objectives and targets; benefits of adopting an EMS; and next steps.

Each case study gives an account of the organization's unique experiences and commonly shared lessons learned and provides insight into EMS implementation for anyone developing an EMS for the first time. These case studies can also be found at <http://www.peercenter.net> (scroll down on the left).

Virginia Tech is one of 11 EMS Local resource centers (PEER Centers) designated by US EPA to provide EMS assistance to local government entities around the country. More information about these centers can be found at <http://www.peercenter.net/whocanhelp/index.cfm>

US EPA PEER Local Resource Centers (LRCs) – The Public Entity Environmental Management Systems Resource (PEER) Initiative is a joint effort between US EPA's Office of Water and the Global Environment and Technology Foundation (GETF). PEER is a one-stop shop for information and tools to help public entities (primarily local government) understand and adopt EMSs for their operations. There are 10 LRCs:

- ◆ Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute (<http://innovate.gatech.edu/>)
- ◆ Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute (<http://www.sbeap.org>)
- ◆ Sustainable Earth Initiative, designated by the US EPA to serve as the local resource center (LRC) for California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. (<http://www.sustainableearthinitiative.org>)
- ◆ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/>)
- ◆ The Zero Waste Alliance, Oregon (<http://www.zerowaste.org>)
- ◆ University of Colorado Connected Organizations for a Responsible Economy (CORE), Advance Colorado Center (<http://www.corecolorado.org>)
- ◆ University of Florida Center for Training, Research, and Education for Environmental Occupations (TREEO) (<http://www.treeo.ufl.edu>)
- ◆ University of Massachusetts-Lowell, EMS Service Center (<http://www.uml.edu/ems>)
- ◆ Virginia Tech Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA) (<http://www.cota.vt.edu/content/program-areas.html>)

National Biosolids Partnership Resource Clearinghouse – NBP is a goldmine of management resources for agencies that generate biosolids or otherwise are engaged in biosolids management. <http://www.biosolids.org>.

The National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) is a not-for-profit alliance formed in 1997 with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) (formerly Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies), Water Environment Federation (WEF), and US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Its goal is to advance environmentally sound and accepted biosolids management practices. Biosolids producers, service contractors, and users – together with stakeholders from regulatory agencies, universities, the farming community, and environmental organizations – have input into shaping NBP priorities through scientific and technical support and communications linkages relating to biosolids issues.

NBP's mission is to:

- ◆ Advance environmentally sound and accepted biosolids management practices
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive environmental management system (EMS) for biosolids that will serve as a model for the wastewater profession
- ◆ Help EMS program participants demonstrate to their communities that they are committed to performing above and beyond mandatory regulatory requirements and to explain how they are working to improve their environmental performance
- ◆ Help EMS program participants involve their communities in defining improved performance or areas that still require attention
- ◆ Develop and administer a centralized clearinghouse for biosolids information

On-Line EMS Tutorial – The USEPA has completed an *On-line EMS Tutorial or Wastewater Utilities* based on its earlier *EMS Implementation Guide for Wastewater Utilities*. The on-line tutorial takes a utility through all the steps necessary to put an EMS in place for its operations, including a large number of examples and other tips from utilities that have successfully implemented EMSs. The on-line tool can be found at <http://www.peercenter.net/index.cfm> under the "Featured Tool" section.

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