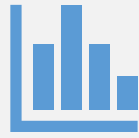


ECHO

Biosolids Tools Training

April 17, 2024

Training Goals



Learn about the biosolids data available on ECHO



Learn how to navigate to each of the biosolids tools



Understand the differences between the biosolids tools and key functionality

Agenda

1. Biosolids Program
2. ECHO Biosolids Tools and Demonstrations
 - Biosolids Annual Report Search
 - Biosolids Facility Search
 - Biosolids Facility Report
3. Questions



Biosolids 101

- Biosolids are a product of the wastewater treatment process.
 - During wastewater treatment the liquids are separated from the solids. Those solids are then treated physically and chemically to produce a semisolid, nutrient-rich product known as biosolids.
 - The terms “biosolids” and “sewage sludge” are often used interchangeably by the public; however, the EPA typically uses the term ‘biosolids’ to mean sewage sludge that has been treated to meet the requirements in Part 503 and is intended to be applied to land as a soil amendment or fertilizer.
 - Annual Biosolids Reports are required to be submitted by larger POTWs that land apply, incinerate, or dispose of their sewage sludge via surface disposal.
-

Who submits reports?

Annual reports are collected from Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) that:

- Serve 10,000 people or more;
 - Are major POTWs (POTWs with a design flow rate greater than or equal to one million gallons per day);
 - Are Class 1 management facilities (POTWs with an approved pretreatment program or facilities that have been classified as such by the EPA or state); or
 - Updates for 2023: 38 new facilities designated as Class 1
 - Are otherwise required to report by EPA or permitting authority.
-



Biosolids Center of Excellence (BCOE)

- EPA Region 7 delegated authority on December 23, 2013
 - Biosolids Coordinator - enforcement and compliance staff
 - Electronic Reporting (eReporting Rule) – electronic submittal
 - Annual report reviews
 - Informal and formal enforcement
-

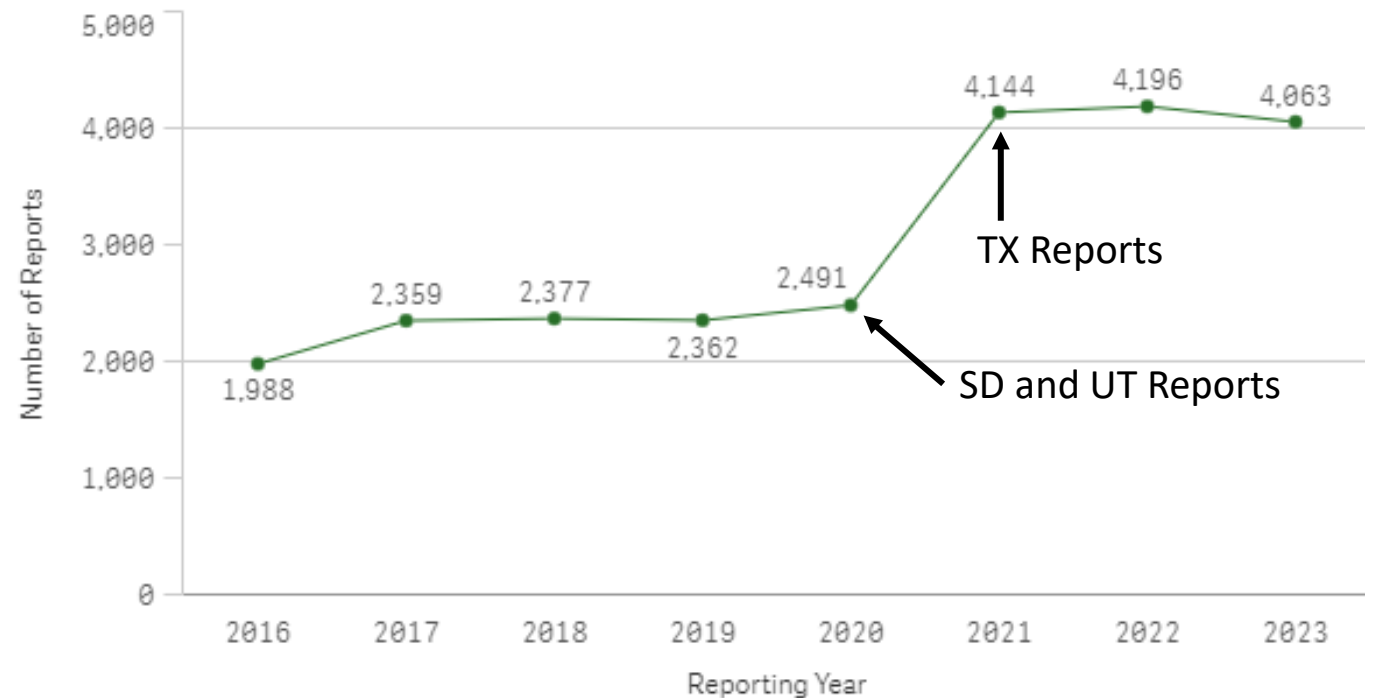
Biosolids Program

Prior to the implementation of the NPDES eReporting Rule (eRule), biosolids annual reports were submitted on paper with varying data quality. Paper submissions limited the data availability and utility of biosolids data on a national scale.

With the implementation of the eRule, the 2016 biosolids annual reports were required to be submitted electronically in the 41 states where EPA implements the Federal Biosolids Program.

Under eReporting, EPA has received around 2,300 reports each year and had a significant increase in 2021 reports with the inclusion of Texas facilities.

Biosolids Program Reports Submitted Electronically





Phase 2 Biosolids Program Reports

With the NPDES eRule Phase 2 Extension Rule, the Phase 2 biosolids program reports are required to be submitted electronically by December 2025 in the 9 states (AZ, ID, MI, OH, OK, SD, UT, TX, WI) with authorized biosolids programs.

Three authorized states (SD, TX, UT) have opted to use EPA's biosolids electronic reporting application.

- South Dakota and Utah POTWs started filing in February 2021 (~60 reporters)
 - Texas POTWs started filling in September 2021 (~1,700 reporters)
-



How can ECHO help?

EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) provides integrated compliance and enforcement information for over a million regulated facilities and includes two biosolids search tools and a biosolids facility report.


The tools are available to the public and centralize biosolids program information into easy-to-use search tools.

ECHO Biosolids Tools

1. [Biosolids Annual Report Search](#)
 - Search electronically reported biosolids annual reports (mainly larger POTWs)
2. [Biosolids Facility Search](#)
 - Search biosolids compliance and enforcement data (includes smaller facilities)
3. Biosolids Facility Report
 - View annual report, permit, compliance, and enforcement data for a unique NPDES ID in a single report

Biosolids Annual Report Search

Search Media Program

Choose a Media Program 

Biosolids Annual Report

Annual Report

NPDES ID (Separate multiple IDs with a semicolon, comma, or new line)

EPA Region [\(View EPA Regional Map\)](#)

State/Territory

Biosolids Annual Reporter

Annual Amount of Biosolids Generated (Dry Metric Tons) No Restrictions Within

0 290 1,500 15,000 >=15,000



Biosolids Annual Report Search - Universe

Who is included in the search?

- Facilities that submitted a biosolids annual report electronically for reporting years 2016-2023.
- Each July, an additional year is added to the search.

The annual report data are available close to the real-time submission (e.g., data reported on Monday is available in ECHO on Monday). The EPA tries to ensure the information presented here is as accurate as possible; however, the data in biosolids annual reports may contain errors as submitted by the POTWs.



Biosolids Annual Report Search

Search Criteria

- Year (required)
- NPDES ID
- EPA Region
- State
- Amount of Biosolids Generated
- Management Practice
- Violation


View Results

- Link to Biosolids Facility Report
 - Link to help documentation
 - Sort table columns
 - Download table data
-

Demonstration

Biosolids Facility Search

Search Media Program

Choose a Media Program 

Biosolids

Geographic Location

Community

Facility Characteristics

Enforcement and Compliance

Time Since Last Biosolids Compliance Monitoring Activity

No Restrictions Within None Within Never

Years OR Date From To

By Agency Any EPA State

Biosolids Compliance Monitoring Activity Type

No Restrictions

Biosolids Violation Origin (3 years)

No Restrictions Any Violation Origin Annual Report Compliance Monitoring



Biosolids Facility Search - Universe

Who is included in the search?

- NPDES ID has a biosolids permit component,
 - NPDES ID has an "L" as the third character,
 - NPDES ID has NPDES Data Group 04 - Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports,
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids violation,
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection, or
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids enforcement action.
-



Biosolids Facility Search

Search Criteria

- Facility location
- Biosolids permit data
- Biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection
- Biosolids violations
- Biosolids enforcement actions
- Biosolids penalties

View Results

- Map or table view
 - Customize and sort table columns
 - Download table data
 - Filter on compliance and enforcement data
 - Links to other reports
-

Demonstration



Biosolids Facility Report - Universe

Who has a report?

- NPDES ID submitted biosolids annual report electronically between 2016-2023,
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids permit component,
 - NPDES ID has an "L" as the third character,
 - NPDES ID has NPDES Data Group 04 - Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports,
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids violation,
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection, or
 - NPDES ID has a biosolids action.
-



Biosolids Facility Report

Integrated biosolids annual report, compliance, and enforcement data for each unique NPDES ID included in the universe. Includes:

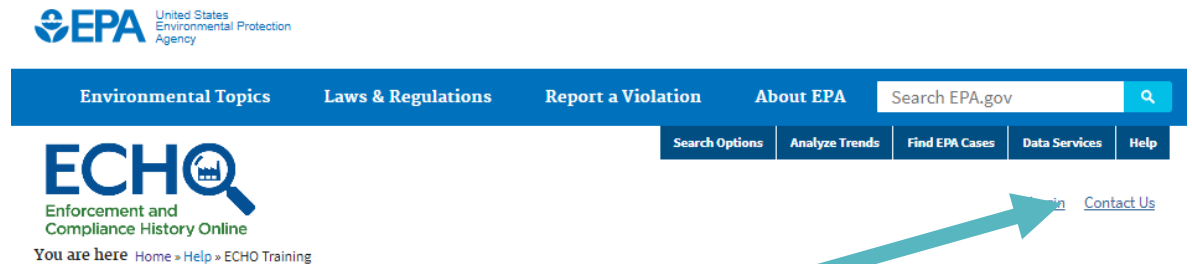
- Permit information
- Biosolids annual report summary and detailed data* (5 years)
- Compliance monitoring history (5 years)
- Violation history (3 years)
- Enforcement history (5 years)

**Annual reports submitted before April 2019 will not include pollutant monitoring, copy of record (COR), or attachment data.*

Demonstration

Other Questions

After today's webinar, questions can be sent to ECHO's [Contact Us](#) link.



“Contact Us” link is available at the top right of every ECHO page