

February, 2008

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# Biosolids Division Monthly Report

Submitted by:

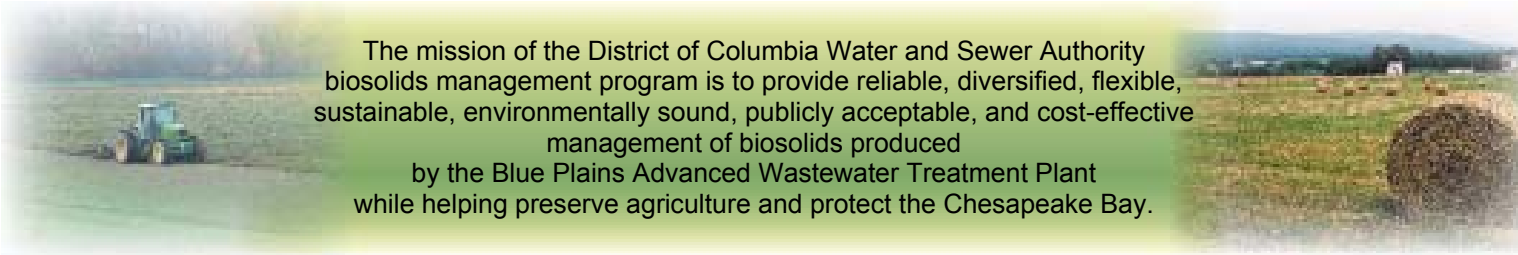
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## District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

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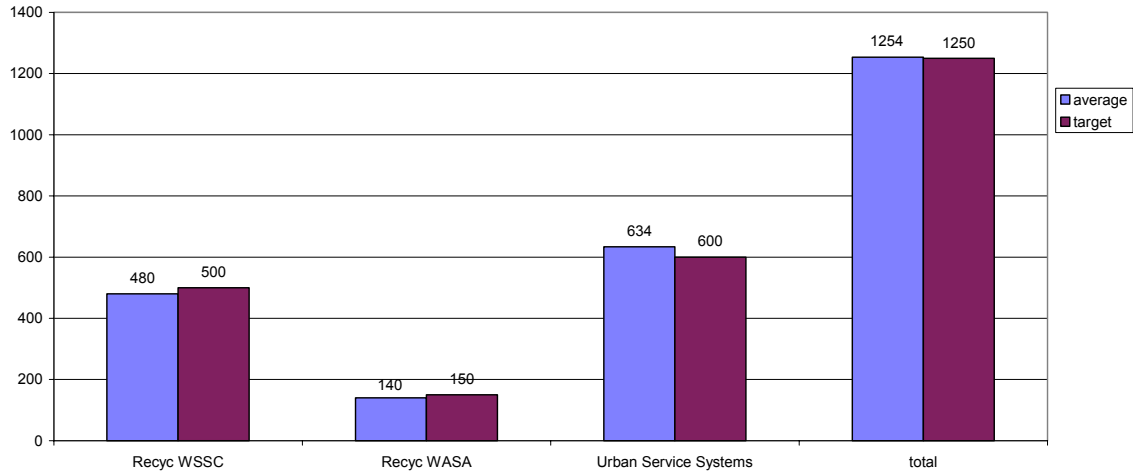


The mission of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority biosolids management program is to provide reliable, diversified, flexible, sustainable, environmentally sound, publicly acceptable, and cost-effective management of biosolids produced by the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant while helping preserve agriculture and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

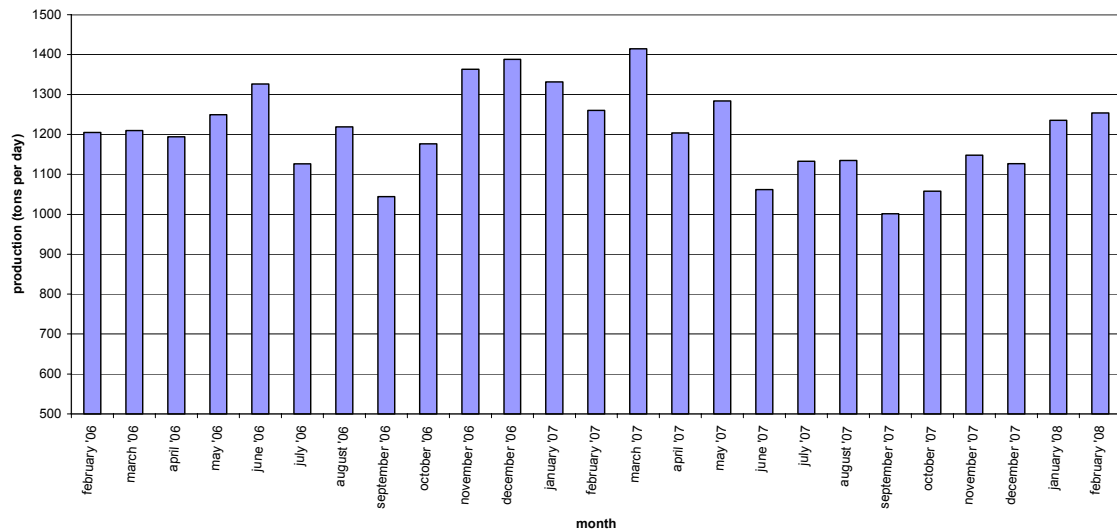
## February 2008 Blue Plains Biosolids Report

In February, biosolids hauling averaged 1254 wet tons per day. The graph below shows the hauling by contractor for the month of February. Average % solids was 24.8%, and average lime dose was 16.4%. A second graph shows average tons recycled per day for the last 24 months.

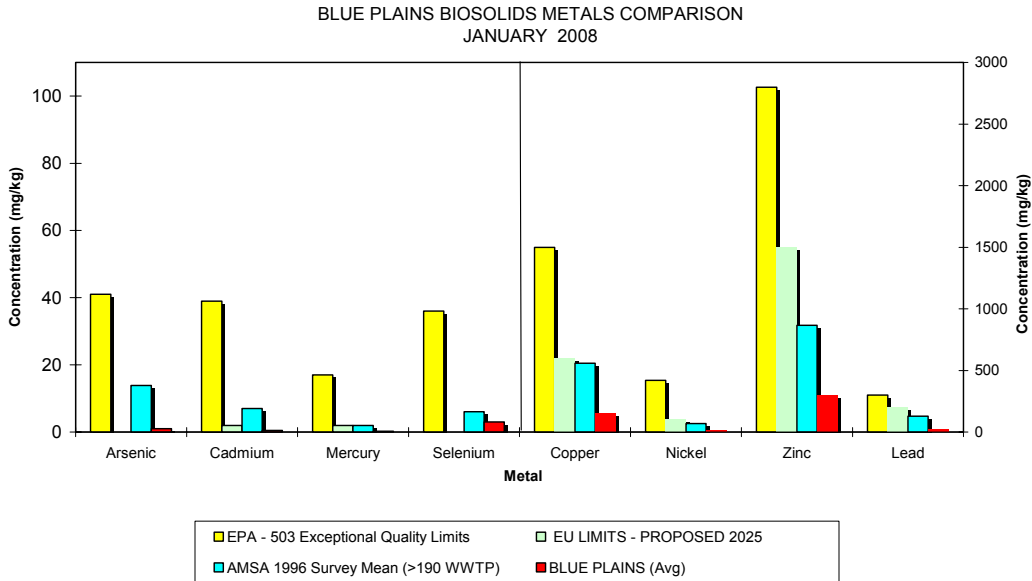
Average Daily Hauling by Contractor for February, 2008



Average Daily Biosolids Production



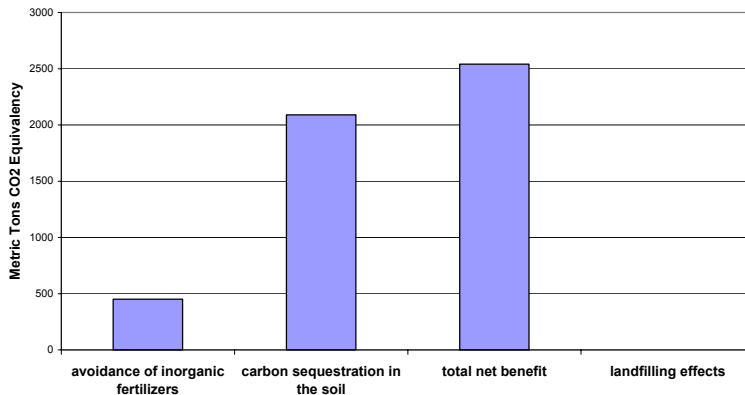
The graphs below show the EPA regulated heavy metals in the Blue Plains biosolids for the month of January 2008. As can be seen in the graphs, the Blue Plains levels are considerably below the regulated exceptional quality limits, the AMSA average levels surveyed in 1996, and even the proposed 2025 European Union (EU) limits.



## Environmental Benefits

In January of 2008 staff sent 33,650 wet tons of biosolids the plant. In addition, 6234 wet tons of material came out of storage in January. No tonnage went to landfills in January. The graph below shows the benefits as compared to landfilling all the biosolids in a non-energy recovering landfill. Taking into account the fuel required to transport biosolids to the field, the net benefit is 2540 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent avoided emissions. The graph shows the benefit (carbon credit) of the sequestration, the energy savings due to avoiding conventional fertilizer use, and the total of the two. This is equivalent to taking 5,761,393 car miles off the road in the month of January (assumes 20 mpg, 19.4 lb CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions/gallon gas – EPA estimate).

**DCWASA Biosolids Recycling Program  
Greenhouse Gas Balance Benefits  
January 2008 Hauling Totals**



## HIGHLIGHTS

Staff made a site visit to the compost facility nearing completion near Petersburg, VA. This facility is run by McGill Composting, which has several successful operations in Ireland and North Carolina. It is available to DCWASA as a subcontract to the Urban Service Systems biosolids reuse contract. The site is a fully enclosed, aerated static pile system with building air drawn out and processed through an acre of biofilter material for odor control. The initial building has a capacity of 600 wtpd of biosolids, and the site has room for expansion. DCWASA is scheduled to begin bringing material to the site in early May, at an initial phase in rate of 3 trucks per day (approximately 70 wtpd). Staff hopes to gradually build to 200 wtpd so as to serve as a bad weather option for next winter. This will help staff avoid the cost and environmental issues related to landfilling winter production.



In late January and early February, WSET-TV out of Lynchburg VA aired a series of stories about a family in Pamplin, VA living next to a farm slated for land application of Blue Plains biosolids. The family had concerns because of a history of health issues with their two young sons. The farm is permitted by Nutriblend, the land application subcontractor on the DCWASA Urban Service Systems biosolids contract. The first of the three stories aired the evening before spreading was to begin. The story contained some inaccuracies, including the use of a biohazard symbol as an opening graphic. The Virginia Biosolids Council (VBC) staff responded to the story, and the station agreed to interview a VBC representative in studio to correct some of the inaccuracies. This aired in the second story, which was much more balanced. Nutriblend met with local health officials and agreed to increase the buffer to 2000', which is 10 times the required buffer of 200'. The application proceeded without any complaints. MES inspectors noted low odors and acceptable pH levels for all loads to the site.

Staff is tracking Maryland House Bill 1529 (cross filed as Senate Bill 927) which contains language that could restrict land application of biosolids in the state. The bill states that the Maryland Department of the Environment may not issue a sewage sludge utilization permit unless the sewage sludge utilization site meets all zoning and land use requirements or ordinances of the county where the site is located. The bill does not state whether sites can obtain variances. Staff is working with contractors and Gordon Fry, WASA Director of Government

Relations, to ensure that all sister agencies and Blue Plains users in Maryland are aware of this.

## Map of Blue Plains Biosolids Applications and Agricultural \$'s for January 2007

