



PCB Land Application Rule Has Expired October 2019

In 2013, in response to discovering illegally discharged PCBs in the collection systems of four SC POTWs, DHEC issued an emergency regulation to require testing of biosolids for PCBs and to prohibit the land application of biosolids with levels of 50 parts per million or higher PCBs. The following year, the DHEC Board adopted – and the legislature approved – amendments to Sections 503 and 504 of R. 61-9 to replace the emergency rule requirements. The final rule took effect on June 27, 2014 with a five-year sunset provision (6/27/2019) to ensure the new mandate would not become an unnecessary long-term burden. We have confirmed with DHEC that the rule has sunset and is no longer in effect.

Members may recall that the regulation required quarterly sampling for programs land applying solids. If any sample was between 10 and 50 mg/kg, it would have to be reanalyzed and reported to DHEC. If PCB levels between 10 and 50 mg/kg were confirmed, additional sampling would be required and DHEC “may require any further action as deemed necessary and consistent with applicable laws.”

The sunset of the PCB regulation is great news for all POTWs because it means there has been no reoccurrence of PCB contamination at a SC POTW. Nevertheless, members are encouraged to remain vigilant, especially relating to waste haulers working in your service area.