



White Paper on Protocol for Annual Municipal Biosolids Land Application June 2026

The SCWQA has prepared a [white paper](#) providing perspective on the land application of biosolids at properly calculated agronomic rates. The SCWQA strongly disagrees with DES's default one-in-three-year biosolids land application frequency and has repeatedly raised concerns with this approach. Applications at agronomic rates—consistent with Clemson guidance and Part 503 requirements—already account for residual nitrogen and are designed to prevent nitrate leaching.

The one-in-three-year limitation undermines these established standards, risks increased landfilling and higher costs, and sends the wrong signal about the safety of land application. Where agronomic rates are followed, utilities should have flexibility to apply more frequently to ensure consistent compliance and preserve the environmental and agricultural benefits of biosolids land application.

Members are strongly encouraged to share your facility's biosolids data with Paul Calamita.