



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** February 5, 2025

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Solid Waste Advisory Committee

**Subject:** Referral from Mr. Andy Duncan, 16 Kimball Street, regarding application of sludge from the City's wastewater plant near the Russell-Shea Community Garden

### Recommendation:

Accept this report.

### Background:

Via email, Councilor Schlosser received a correspondence on December 31, 2024, from Mr. Andy Duncan of 16 Kimball Street noting concern about PFAS contamination of sewage sludge spread on the agricultural fields near the community garden and respectfully requested PFAS test results of presumably City of Concord wastewater sludge that is spread there and other nearby agricultural fields. Mr. Duncan also noted a recently installed groundwater monitoring well that was installed at the northeast boundary of the Birch Street cornfield.

Councilor Schlosser forwarded the correspondence via email to the City Clerk on January 1, 2025, requesting the matter be referred to City Council and suggested the matter be referred to the Energy and Environment Committee for their assessment and recommendation.

The matter was placed on the regular January City Council agenda where it was then directed to the Solid Waste and Advisory Committee instead of the Energy and Environment Committee. The matter was then placed on the next Solid Waste and Advisory Committee agenda of February 4, 2025.

**Discussion:**

At our February 4, 2025, meeting, General Services staff briefed the committee on the City's historic practice to land apply wastewater residuals. For well over twenty-five years, possibly longer, staff advised it has been the practice not to apply sludge from either of Concord wastewater plants on fields within the City due to the odors that it can create.

General Services staff further reported wastewater residuals from outside of the City have been applied to land within the community. That activity is presently regulated at the state level by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and at the Federal level by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Within the state's framework of regulations, wastewater plant sludges that are land applied are regulated as either Class A or Class B biosolids. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services should have records of any Class B biosolids applied on the fields in question since a permit is required. Permits for distribution of Class A biosolids are not required.

General Services staff reported they contacted staff at the NHDES Wastewater Residuals Group who administers this state regulatory function. For more particular information regarding Class B biosolids applied on the land adjacent to the Russell-Shea Community garden, a file review can be scheduled with Mr. Wade Pelham of that agency. Mr. Brandon Kernen of that agency was able to determine that the monitoring well noted in Mr. Duncan's correspondence belongs to the New Hampshire Geologic Survey and it is part of their statewide network of groundwater level monitoring wells.

Cc Earle M. Chesley, P. E., General Services Director