

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Municipal
Pollution Control (WH-595)
Washington, DC 20460

Water

January 1991



Nomination Guidance

Beneficial Sewage Sludge Use Awards Program

For
Operating Projects,
Technology Development,
Research



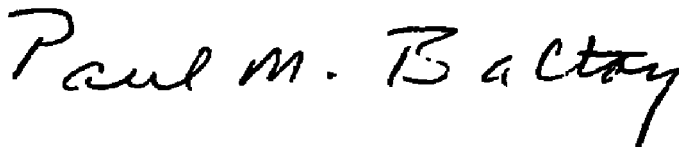
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the 1991 Beneficial Sewage Sludge Use Awards Program. This program recognizes outstanding operational projects, research studies, and technological advances which promote the beneficial use of municipal sewage sludge. EPA Regional Offices will join the Water Pollution Control Federation (WPCF) in helping to implement this program. The awards program includes separate competitions within most of our Regions to recognize additional beneficial sludge use efforts.

EPA actively promotes the beneficial use of sewage sludge. Creative and widely applicable techniques for the beneficial use of sewage sludge are vital to our efforts to protect and better utilize our resources. Many municipalities, businesses, individuals and groups have worked for years to make significant contributions to the study and practice of safer beneficial use of municipal sewage sludge. These awards help demonstrate the operational viability of sewage sludge management practices which beneficially use sludge in a manner that is environmentally safe, economically attractive and acceptable to the public. Winning entries will receive formal awards and along with other worthy nominations will be publicly recognized in various EPA, WPCF, trade, and municipal publications. We encourage you to nominate worthy candidates deserving of recognition.

The National awards will be made in October 1991 at the Annual WPCF Conference in Toronto, Canada. This pamphlet describes the awards program in detail and gives guidance for preparing and submitting nominations. Please note that this year you need to send your nominations to EPA's Regional Offices by their deadlines so that these outstanding efforts can be considered for both the regional and national competitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul M. Baltay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul M. Baltay
Director, Municipal Facilities Division
Office of Municipal Pollution Control

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS PROGRAM

Purpose

The purpose of the awards program is to encourage the development and use of cost-effective and environmentally safe sewage sludge beneficial use practices which recycle nutrients, improve soil conditions or otherwise conserve valuable natural resources.

Award Categories

Nominations will be accepted to recognize excellence in a wide range of activities that have stimulated beneficial use of municipal sewage sludge. National awards will be presented in the following three categories:

- **Operating Projects.** Outstanding, full-scale, beneficial use technologies.
- **Technology Development Activities.** Significant technological improvements that have been developed and fully proven at the operational level; these may be pilot or full-scale activities.
- **Research Activities.** Studies that have substantially contributed to a improved understanding of sludge beneficial use practices; improved public acceptance; and/or advanced the technology.

Nomination and Award Guidance

- Candidates for awards may be nominated by anyone including the nominee, EPA Regions, States, municipalities, consultants, researchers or other interested parties.
- Completed nomination packages in specified format (see pages 4 and 5) must be submitted in duplicate to the EPA Regional Office in which your State is located (see pages 6 and 7).
- Important--Please check with your Regional Office contact (page 7) for any Region-specific nomination guidance and for that Region's submission deadline. The tentative Regional deadlines for receipt of nominations are shown on page 6.

- Entries will be considered for Regional awards (where established) as well as National awards. Regions will forward one copy of all entries to WPCF for the National competition by the June 15, 1991 National deadline.
- During June, July and August, nomination packages, received for the National competition, will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives from EPA, WPCF and other groups. EPA Regional Offices will also review the nominations for projects in their Region.
- National award recipients will be notified by August 31, 1991.
- National awards will be presented in October 1991 at WPCF's Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada.
- Each National award will consist of a project certificate and plaque.
- An exhibit or poster session display and a short article describing each National award winning beneficial use activity will be developed for the WPCF Conference. Subsequent publications describing those Regional as well as National activities will be encouraged.
- We again encourage submission of nominations in the technology development and research categories because these activities are important in developing new alternatives and improvements in available beneficial use practices.
- Note that there are two categories for operating projects this year with awards for both large and small projects.
- Previous first place winning projects or activities will not be considered as candidates for the same award category for a five-year period. However, second place winners can reapply after a one year wait to try for first place in the same award category. Unsuccessful nominees for awards may be immediately submitted again the next year. This persistence paid off for a project that won first place in 1990 after improving its submission each year for three years.
- Nominated and winning activities have included both individuals and groups from private as well as public organizations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The beneficial use of sewage sludge award candidates will be evaluated against the following criteria.

For Operating Projects [Two categories: (1) ≤ 5 MGD (2) > 5 MGD]

- Significant recycling/reuse of natural resources (e.g., nutrients, organic matter and energy).
- Sustained (several years), full-scale, proven operation.
- Consistent, cost-effective operation.
- Publicly acceptable.
- Compliant with applicable Federal, State and local regulations.
- Excellence in project management.

For Technology Development Activities

- Sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technology (e.g., improved design criteria or operational practice).
- National application technology has potential for use in many areas across the country.
- Operationally proven.

For Research Activities

- Greater public acceptability of sludge beneficial use.
- Greatly improves our understanding of the environmental effects associated with beneficial use of sludge.
- Substantial contribution toward the development of improved technology design and operation.
- Key information generated for the development of improved sludge regulations and guidance.

NOMINATION FORMAT

The information described in the Nomination Format should be supplied in the nomination package. The completeness of information provided and manner in which the nomination addresses the Evaluation Criteria in the Executive Summary and text is especially important.

All nominations must be submitted in duplicate in the following format to the appropriate EPA Regional Office (see pages 6 and 7).

1. Identifying Information (Front page)

Name, address, affiliation, telephone number, NPDES number (if applicable) and the spokesperson for the project or activity.

2. Executive Summary (2 pages or less)

Describe the project or activity indicating the award category for which the nomination is proposed and how it meets the evaluation criteria.

3. Facility/Activity Information (4-5 pages)

Provide the following relevant information to adequately support the nomination.

- (a) Sludge type, volume, quality and processing information. Be specific regarding the unit processes, including sludge production and processing details, sludge quality (e.g., nutrients and pollutants) and other details relevant to the beneficial use practice.
- (b) Cooperating parties and their contributions to the beneficial use project or activity.
- (c) Duration and size of the project or activity, extent of ability to operate at design level and cost information.
- (d) Compliance record with applicable local, State and Federal regulations.

- (e) Project monitoring program, including its use to evaluate and modify management practices.**
- (f) Description of project management activities emphasizing efforts to hold down costs and to maintain and promote excellence in project performance.**
- (g) Description of training activities, where applicable, leading to improved operations, performance and public acceptability.**
- (h) POTW pretreatment program and its effectiveness, if appropriate.**
- (i) Special innovative practices or activities.**
- (j) Obstacles (technical, political, public acceptance or other) overcome as a result of the activity.**
- (k) Evidence of enhanced benefits resulting from the activity (such as lower sludge management costs, lower energy consumption, enhanced soil properties, better crop productivity and quality, enhanced plant disease resistance, lower human health risks, greater national adoption of practice and improved public acceptance).**

4. Attachments

Supporting materials may be attached. The attachment should include a short cover index page that lists the various supporting materials and gives about a 4- to 6-line description of each item.

Photographs of the activity are strongly encouraged (where appropriate).

Note: Sheer bulk of information is not desirable. Be concise and attach items that truly substantiate the importance and relevance of the beneficial use project or activity. Please do not send materials that you wish to have back because application materials are not returned.

Tentative Regional Deadlines for Nominations

EPA Region	Tentative Deadline Dates*	States
1	05-24-91	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
2	05-01-91	New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
3	05-01-91	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
4	05-24-91	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
5	05-01-91	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
6	05-01-91	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
7	05-01-91	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
8	05-31-91	Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
9	05-31-91	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam
10	05-01-91	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

*These deadline dates for receipt of award nomination packages are tentative. Please check with your Regional Office for verification.

EPA Regional Contact: (See List of States in Each Region, Page 6)

Region	Address	Contact	Telephone
1	Municipal Evaluation Section Water Division JFK Federal Building, WCM 510 Boston, MA 02203	Charles Conway	617-565-3517
2	Water Management Division 26 Federal Plaza, Rm 837 New York, NY 10278	John Mello	212-264-5677
3	Water Management Division 841 Chestnut Street (3WM22) Philadelphia, PA 19107	Jim Kern	215-597-3423
4	Municipal Facilities Branch Water Management Division 345 Courtland Street Atlanta, GA 30365	Vince Miller	404-347-3633
5	Permits Section (5WQP-TUB-8) Water Division 230 South Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60604	John O'Grady	312-353-1938
6	Municipal Facilities Branch Water Management Division 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202	Ancil Jones	214-655-7130
7	Construction Grants Branch Water Management Division 726 Minnesota Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101	Frank Mischlich	913-551-7449
8	Compliance Branch Water Management Division 999 18th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2405	Bob Brobst	303-293-1627
9	Permits and Compliance Branch (W-5-2) Water Division 75 Hawthorne St San Francisco, CA 94105	Lauren Fondahl	415-744-1909
10	Municipal Facilities Branch Water Division, WD-085 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101	Dick Hetherington	206-442-1941

Also Contact:

The Water Pollution Control Federation 703-684-2400
Attention: Technical Services
601 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314