



# **Nomination Guidance**

## **1992 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 1992 Beneficial Sewage Sludge Use Awards Program. This program recognizes outstanding operating projects, research studies, and technological advances which promote the beneficial use of municipal sewage sludge. EPA Regional Offices and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) will join our National Headquarters Office in helping implement this program. The program involves both National and Regional awards.

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 which 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, WEF, trade, and municipal publications. We encourage you to nominate candidates deserving of recognition.

The National awards will be made in September 1992 at the National WEF Conference in New Orleans, LA. This pamphlet describes the awards program in detail and gives guidance for preparing and submitting nominations. Please note that you need to send your nominations to EPA's Regional Offices by their deadlines so that these outstanding efforts can be considered for both Regional and National competitions.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Quigley  
Director, Municipal Support Division  
Office of Water Enforcement and Compliance

## **DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS PROGRAMS**

### **Purpose**

**The purpose of the awards program is to recognize the significant contributions which have encouraged the development and implementation 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 categories:**

- o **Operating Projects (large & small).** Outstanding, full-scale, beneficial use technologies.
- o **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.
- o **Research Activities.** Studies that have substantially contributed to an improved understanding of sludge beneficial use practices, improved public acceptance, and/or advanced the technology.

### **Nomination and Award Guidance**

- o **Candidates for awards may be nominated by anyone including the nominee, EPA Regions, States, municipalities, consultants, researchers, or other interested parties.**
- o **Nominated and winning entries have included both individuals and groups from private as well as public organizations.**
- o **Completed nomination packages in specified format (see pages 4 & 5) must be received in duplicate by the Regional office in which your office is located (see pages 6 & 7).**

- o **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.**
- o **Entries will be considered for Regional (which are being given increased emphasis this year) as well as National awards. Regions will forward one copy of all entries to EPA Headquarters by the May 15, 1992 National deadline.**
- o **Nomination packages, received for the National competition, will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives from EPA, WEF, and other groups during June 1992. EPA Regional offices will also review the nominations for a separate competition in their Region.**
- o **National award recipients will be notified before July 31, 1992.**
- o **National awards will be presented in September 1992 at WEF's National Conference in New Orleans, LA.**
- o **Each National award will consist of a certificate and plaque.**
- o **An exhibit or poster session display and a short article describing each National award winning beneficial use activity will be developed for the WEF Conference. Subsequent publications describing those Regional as well as National activities will be encouraged.**
- o **We especially encourage submission of nominations in the technology development and research categories because these activities are important in developing new alternatives and improvements in existing beneficial use practices.**
- o **Note that there are two categories for operating projects with awards for both large and small projects.**
- o **Nominated activities are sometimes chosen for special recognition rather than a categorical award.**
- o **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. Persistence has paid off for many nominees that have won awards after submitting an improved application in subsequent years.**

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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

### **For Operating Projects [Two Categories: (1) $\leq 5$ MGD (2) $> 5$ MGD]**

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

### **For Technology Development Activities**

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

### **For Research Activities**

- o Greater public acceptability of sludge beneficial use.**
- o Greatly improves our understanding of the environmental effects associated with beneficial use of sludge.**
- o Substantial contribution toward the development of improved technology design and operation.**
- o 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 both the Executive Summary and the text is especially important.**

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

### **1. Identifying Information (Front page)**

**Name, address, affiliation, telephone number, NPDES number (if applicable), and the spokesperson for the project or activity. Please also indicate the Congressional Representatives that you would like notified should your entry win an award.**

### **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**

<b>EPA Region</b>	<b>Tentative * Deadline Dates</b>	<b>States</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>04-24-92</b>	<b>Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>04-03-92</b>	<b>New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>04-03-92</b>	<b>Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>04-24-92</b>	<b>Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>04-03-92</b>	<b>Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>04-03-92</b>	<b>Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>04-15-92</b>	<b>Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>04-15-92</b>	<b>Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>05-01-92</b>	<b>Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>04-03-92</b>	<b>Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington</b>

**\* 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)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Municipal Evaluation Section Water Division JFK Federal Building, WCM 510 Boston, MA 02203</b>	<b>Charles Conway</b>	<b>617-565-3517</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Water Management Division 26 Federal Plaza, Rm 837 New York, NY 10278</b>	<b>John Mello</b>	<b>212-264-5677</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Water Management Division 841 Chestnut Street (3WM22) Philadelphia, PA 19107</b>	<b>Jim Kern</b>	<b>215-597-3423</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Municipal Facilities Branch Water Management Division 345 Courtland Street Atlanta, GA 30365</b>	<b>Ben Chen</b>	<b>404-347-3633</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Permits Section (5WQP-TUB-8) Water Division 230 South Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60604</b>	<b>John O'Grady</b>	<b>312-353-1938</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Municipal Facilities Branch Water Management Division 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202</b>	<b>Ancil Jones</b>	<b>214-655-7130</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Water Program Assistance Branch Water Management Division 726 Minnesota Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101</b>	<b>Frank Mischlich</b>	<b>913-551-7449</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Compliance Branch Water Management Division 999 18th Street Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2466</b>	<b>Bob Brobst</b>	<b>303-293-1627</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Permits and Compliance Water Division (W-5-2) 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105</b>	<b>Lauren Fondahl</b>	<b>415-744-1909</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Municipal Facilities Branch Water Division (WD-085) 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101</b>	<b>Dick Hetherington</b>	<b>206-553-1941</b>
<b>Also Contact:</b>	<b>The Water Environment Federation Attention: Technical Services 601 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314</b>		<b>703-684-2400</b>

1987, 1988

**PREVIOUS NATIONAL BENEFICIAL SLUDGE USE AWARD WINNERS**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner [Activity]</b>	<b>Award*/Year</b>
<b>Operating Projects (&gt;5 MGD)</b>	City of Omaha, NB [Land Appl.]	1st 1991
	Miami-Dade, FL [Air Dry, Composting, Marketing]	2nd 1991
	Vallejo San. & Flood Control Dist., CA [Land Ap]	1st 1990
	Cape May County Mun. Util. Auth., NJ [Composting]	2nd 1990
	Hampton Roads, VA [Nutragreen - Land Ap., Comp.]	1st 1989
	Clayton Co., GA [Comp, Heat Dry, Tree Prod.]	tie 2nd 1989
	Pima County, AZ [Land Application]	tie 2nd 1989
	Seattle Metro, WA [Forest & Ag. Land Use]	1st 1988
	San. Dist of Los Angeles Co., CA [Composting]	2nd 1988
<b>Operating Projects (≤5 MGD)</b>	Alpena, MI [Revegetate Industrial Waste Site]	1st 1991
	Blackfoot, ID [Land Appl., Outreach]	2nd 1991
	Hannibal, MO, Bd of Pub. Works [Econ Land Ap]	1st 1990
	Redwood San. Sewer Service Dist., CA [Co-Compost]	2nd 1990
<b>Technology Development</b>	N-Viro [Alkaline Stabilization of Sludge], OH	1st 1990
	WSSC Montgomery Co., MD Regional Compost. Fac. [Thermal Odor Control]	2nd 1990
	Austin, TX [Accelerated Air Drying]	1st 1989
	WSSC Montgomery Co. MD, Regional Compost. Fac. [Chemical Odor Control]	1st 1988
	Sussex Co., NJ [Compost Odor & Process Control]	2nd 1988
<b>Research Activities</b>	Drs. Al Page & Andrew Chang, Univ of CA, Riv.	1st 1991
	Dr. Paul Giordano, Tenn Valley Authority, AL	2nd 1991
	Dr. Rufus Chaney, US Dept. of Agriculture, MD	1st 1990
	Dr. Michael Overcash, NC State University	2nd 1990
	Univ. of MN, USDA Research Team	1st 1989
	W124/W170 Regional Research Comm., USDA, CSRS	1st 1988
	Allentown, PA/Penn State Univ, Palmerton Reveg.	2nd 1988
<b>Special Recognition</b>	NutraLime, St. Paul, MN [Inclin. Ash + Water Treatment Sludge for Land Improvement]	1991
	Metro. Water Reclam. Dist. of Greater Chicago [Long Term Multiple Contrib. to Beneficial Use]	1991
	BioGro Systems, Inc., MD [Sustained Service & Enhanced Public Acceptance]	1990
	City of Los Angeles, CA & Ag Tech Co., AZ [Public- Private Team from Ocean Disp. to Ben Use]	1989
	East Bay Municipal Utilities Dist., CA [Sustained Contribution to Beneficial Use & Composting]	1989
<b>Honorable Mention</b>	Madison, WI, Metro-Gro [Land Use]	1988
	Lime Lakes, OH, PPG Corp. [Priv. Svc. Reclaim Alk Site]	1988
	Hannibal, MO [Land Application]	1988
	Bowling Green, KY [Land Application]	1988
	Fallbrook, CA [Vermicomposting]	1988
	Ohio State Univ, Wooster, OH [Composting Biotech.]	1988

\*1st and 2nd place awards are not always given