

'FOREVER CHEMICALS' IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Helping Communities with PFAS in Sewage

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a warning about the dangers of chemicals found in sewage sludge/biosolids used by some farmers to fertilize their pastures. Additionally, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has implemented a PFAS Biosolids Strategy which impacts the use of this sludge as fertilizer. The MPCA has categorized the use into 4 tiers that communities need to be aware of. Bolton & Menk can help your community interpret lab results and determine which PFAS biosolids tier applies as well as help develop an approach to manage through new regulations. The chemicals are part of a larger group called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they take a long time to break down in the environment and human body.

Why It Matters

- **Health Risks:** Exposure to food from farms using sewage sludge can increase the risk of cancer and other health conditions. According to the EPA, people who consume a lot of milk or beef from these farms may be particularly at risk.
- **Environmental Impact:** These chemicals have been used in products like Teflon and firefighting foam for decades and are still found in many household items and throughout communities.

Why Bolton & Menk

- **Expert Guidance:** Bolton & Menk can provide expert advice on how to guide communities through new regulations and develop potential new solutions to sludge disposal if needed.
- **Regulatory Support:** We can assist in navigating federal and state regulations to ensure compliance and help implement measures to mitigate PFAS, reduce it, and possibly dispose of it as needed to ensure cost effective wastewater treatment.
- **Community Education:** Our team can help educate communities about PFAS and the steps they can take to navigate the new EPA warnings and MN tiered sludge disposal.

Funding Programs

Many of our regions have funding programs to support PFAS project efforts, with grant and low interest loans administered through the State Revolving Loan Fund programs, or other state or regional grant sources. Please reach out for more information.

