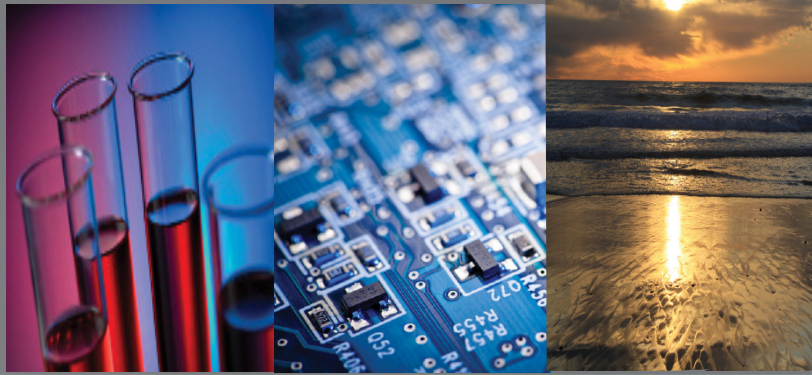




Pretreatment News



Volume 19, Winter 2015

Encina Wastewater Authority Partners with Fertilizer Manufacturer

On February 24, 2015, Nutrients Plus, LLC, headquartered in Virginia Beach VA, and Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) announced a unique public-private joint venture that elevates the standards and safety requirements for treating and using biosolids as fertilizer. EWA has consistently produced a safe product that is rich in the nutrients and micronutrients essential to the full development of nutrient healthy plants. This partnership forges a path for future public-private partnerships in the treatment and reuse of nutrients recovered from waste.

Under this partnership, Nutrients Plus will continue to study the commercial feasibility of a jointly owned and operated facility for reusing recycled nutrients as a premium fertilizer. The partnership also includes a supply agreement, through which Nutrients Plus will purchase PureGreen from EWA. In creating a mission driven business relationship, a public agency and private business have aligned their vision to serve communities by protecting rivers, beaches and oceans through the development of innovative technologies and products in a sustainable and fiscally responsible manner. "EWA is a critical partner in meeting the supply needs for top quality nutrients to produce a new generation of Clarus Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers. This partnership contributes to an important phase of our expansion and plan for growth into the 21st century" said Nutrients Plus founder John Moriarty.

EWA's facilities are a model of excellence and innovation in water resource recovery: water is recycled for on-site use and retail distribution by its municipal partners; solids are purified to provide inputs to the PureGreen manufacturing process; methane gas by-products are used to produce up to 3.5 megawatts daily of renewable electricity for on-site use; and, staff have successfully marketed PureGreen as a soil amendment product since 2012. According to EWA General Manager Kevin Hardy, "Through sound planning and the support of our Member Agencies, EWA has made appropriate investments to convert biosolids into forms appropriately valued in the premium fertilizer market. We provide compelling value to our community by protecting the Pacific Ocean and preserving public health and will continue to pursue fiscally responsible, efficient, and innovative means of doing so. Partnering with Nutrients Plus is a natural extension of the PureGreen product portfolio anticipated during the process of developing the Biosolids Management Plan approved by EWA's Board of Directors in 2008."

More information about Encina Wastewater Authority and PureGreen fertilizer can be found at www.encinajpa.com and www.facebook.com/encinawastewaterauthority.



Ask The Inspector



Q. “If I sample more frequently than is required in my permit, do I need to submit that information to EWA?”

A. The short answer is yes. Permittees are required to submit the results of all sample analyses obtained at the permitted sample point and analyzed per EPA wastewater methods set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 136 (Section 5.1.D. of EWA’s Pretreatment Ordinance). Additional self-monitoring is always encouraged, but the results must be submitted. If a permittee wishes to perform QA/QC monitoring of their pretreatment system, this should be performed upstream of the permitted sample point at a location that doesn’t replicate the sample point. Additionally, QA/QC samples are typically analyzed with methods that provide more immediate feedback such as colorimetric analyzers and simple titrations, so that operators can make real time adjustments to treatment.

Q. When evaluating an industry to determine if they are regulated under Categorical Pretreatment Standards, a common question is, “if our facility is just cleaning metal

parts with a mild acid solution to remove oxides or oily films, why am I subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards?”

A. Over the years, the EPA has issued a number of letters clarifying the application of certain federal regulations and rendering specific process determinations in situations where either an industry or the Control Authority has requested guidance. In April 2003, the EPA responded to National Steel’s request to evaluate a proposed acid cleaning operation that had been categorized as “etching” by the Control Authority. National Steel’s proposed process involved exposing ferrous and nonferrous pipe to a 10% phosphoric acid solution to remove scale or rust (oxide) through controlled dissolution. The EPA concluded that when acid is used as a cleaning agent, the process is expected to remove base metal or base metal oxide as well and thus is included under EPA’s description of chemical etching as described in the Metal Finishing Development Document. This determination and many more useful guidance documents can be found at the EPA’s website under Water: Pretreatment <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/pretreatment/index.cfm>.

Meet EWA’s New Inspector



Please welcome our new Industrial Waste Control Inspector, Jerome Jovenal. Jerome recently received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from California State University, San Marcos. Previously, he was an intern chemist at EWA’s laboratory. During his undergraduate career, he also worked as a science tutor in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at CSUSM STEM Center. In his spare time, Jerome enjoys hiking, fishing and spending time with family, friends and his dog.

Pretreatment News is published by the



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To comment on a particular topic or submit an idea for a future newsletter, please contact Don Little at the above address or email: dlittle@encinajpa.com.

“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect Man.” – Stewart Udall

