

ECHO Biosolids Facility Searches and Report Training

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Training Goals



Learn about the biosolids data available in ECHO



Learn how to navigate to each of the biosolids tools



Understand the differences between the biosolids tools and key functionality

Agenda

1. Biosolids Program
2. ECHO Biosolids Tools and Demonstrations
 - Biosolids Annual Report Search
 - Biosolids Facility Search
 - Biosolids Facility Report
3. Q&A Review

Biosolids Program



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Sewage Sludge & Biosolids 101



- Sewage sludge is a product of wastewater treatment process.
- During wastewater treatment the liquids are separated from the solids. Those solids are then treated physically and chemically to produce a semisolid, nutrient-rich product known as biosolids.
- The terms “biosolids” and “sewage sludge” are often used interchangeably by the public; however, the EPA typically uses the term “biosolids” to mean sewage sludge that has been treated to meet the requirements of Part 503 and is intended to be applied to land as a soil amendment or fertilizer.
- Biosolids annual reports are required to be submitted by larger POTWs and Class I Sludge Management Facilities that land apply, incinerate, or dispose of their sewage via surface disposal.

Who submits reports?

Biosolids annual reports are collected from Publically Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) that:

- Serve 10,000 people or more;
- Are major POTWs (POTWs with a design flow rate greater than or equal to one million gallons per day);
- Are Class I management facilities (POTWs with an approved pretreatment program or facilities that have been classified as such by the EPA or state); or
- Are otherwise required to report by EPA or permitting authority.

Biosolids Center of Excellence (BCOE)

- On December 23, 2013, EPA Region 7 became the delegated authority for EPA's program and created the Biosolids Center of Excellence.
- This center is led by a Biosolids Coordinator and includes enforcement and compliance staff.
- Prior to electronic reporting, the BCOE reviewed the paper report submissions.
- Today, the BCOE performs the biosolids annual report reviews and is the regulatory authority for informal and formal biosolids enforcement in 41 states.

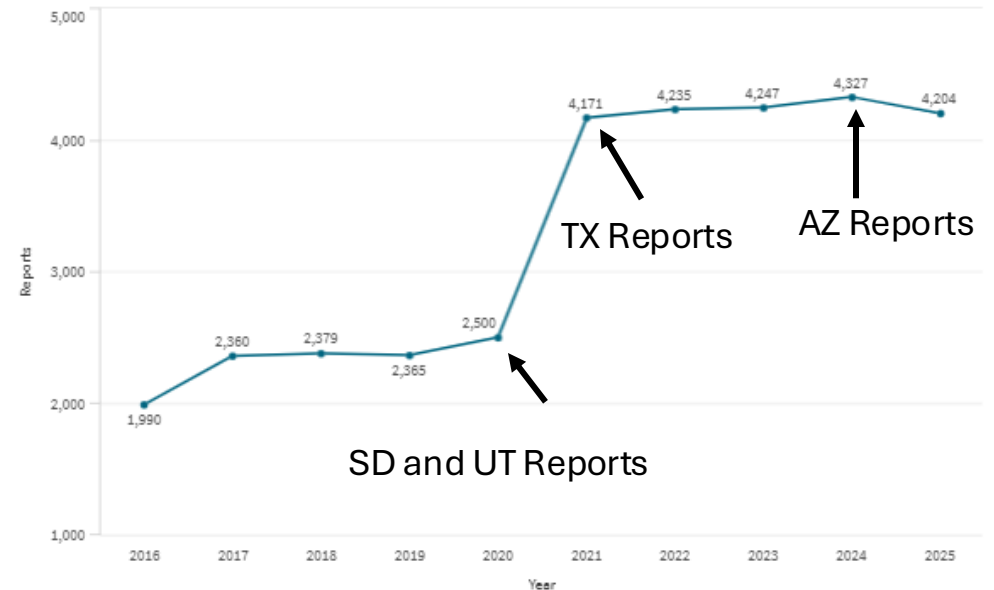
Biosolids Program

Prior to the implementation of the NPDES eReporting Rule (eRule), biosolids annual reports were submitted on paper with varying data quality. Paper submissions limited the data availability and utility of biosolids data on a national scale.

With the implementation of the eRule, the 2016 biosolids annual reports were required to be submitted electronically in the 41 states where EPA implements the Federal Biosolids Program.

With electronic reporting, EPA has received around 2,300 reports each year and had a significant increase in 2021 reports with the inclusion of Texas facilities.

Biosolids Annual Reports Submitted Electronically



Phase 2 Biosolids Annual Reports

With the NPDES eRule Phase 2 Extension Rule, the Phase 2 biosolids annual reports were required to be submitted electronically by December 2025 in the nine states with authorized biosolids programs.

Four authorized states (AZ, SD, TX, UT) have opted to use EPA's biosolids electronic reporting application.

- SD and UT POTWs started filing in February 2021 (~60 reporters)
- TX POTWs started filing in September 2021 (~1,700 reporters)
- AZ POTWs started filing in February 2025 (~60 reporters)

The remaining five authorized states (ID, MI, OH, OK, WI) have approved Phase 2 compliance deadlines.

How can ECHO help?

EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) provides integrated compliance and enforcement information for over a million regulated facilities and includes two biosolids search tools and a biosolids facility report.

The tools are available to the public and centralize biosolids program information into easy-to-use search tools.

ECHO Biosolids Tools


1. [Biosolids Annual Report Search](#)
 - Search electronically reported biosolids annual reports (mainly larger POTWs)
2. [Biosolids Facility Search](#)
 - Search biosolids compliance and enforcement data (includes smaller facilities)
3. Biosolids Facility Report
 - View biosolids annual reports, permit, compliance, and enforcement data for a unique NPDES ID in a single report



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency


Biosolids Annual Report Search

Search Media Program

Choose a Media Program 

Biosolids Annual Report

Annual Report

NPDES ID (Separate multiple IDs with a semicolon, comma, or new line) 

EPA Region [\(View EPA Regional Map\)](#)

Select an EPA Region

State/Territory

No Restrictions

Biosolids Annual Reporter

2025

Biosolids Annual Report Search - Universe

Who is included in the search?

- Facilities that submitted a biosolids annual report electronically for reporting years 2016-2025.
- Each July, the subsequent year is added to the search.

The annual report data is available close to the real-time submission (e.g., data reported on Monday is available in ECHO on Monday). EPA tries to ensure the information presented here is as accurate as possible; however, the data in biosolids annual reports may contain errors as submitted by the POTWs.

Biosolids Annual Report Search

Search Criteria

- Year (required)
- NPDES ID
- EPA Region
- State
- Amount of Biosolids Generated
- Management Practice
- Violation

View Results

- Link to Biosolids Facility Report
- Link to help documentation
- Sort table columns
- Download table data

Demonstration



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Biosolids Facility Search

Search Media Program

Choose a Media Program ⚠

Biosolids

Geographic Location +

Community +

Facility Characteristics +

Enforcement and Compliance -

Time Since Last Biosolids Compliance Monitoring Activity ?

No Restrictions Within None Within Never

Years OR Date From To

By Agency Any EPA State

Biosolids Compliance Monitoring Activity Type

No Restrictions

Biosolids Violation Origin (3 years)

No Restrictions Any Violation Origin Annual Report Compliance Monitoring

Biosolids Facility Search - Universe

Who is included in the search?

- NPDES ID has a biosolids permit component,
- NPDES ID has an “L” as the third character,
- NPDES ID has NPDES Data Group 04 – Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports,
- NPDES ID has a biosolids violation,
- NPDES ID has a biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection, or
- NPDES ID has a biosolids enforcement action.

Biosolids Facility Search

Search Criteria

- Facility location
- Biosolids permit data
- Biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection
- Biosolids violations
- Biosolids enforcement actions
- Biosolids penalties

View Results

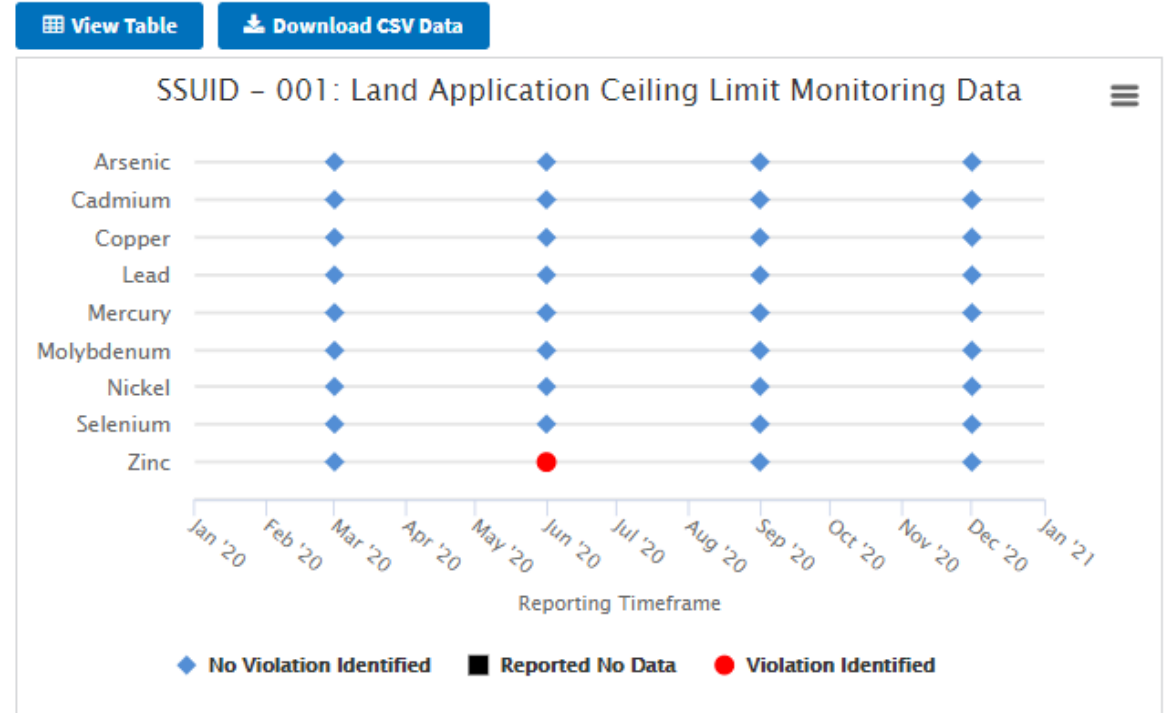
- Map or table view
- Customize and sort table columns
- Download table data
- Filter on compliance and enforcement data
- Links to other reports

Demonstration



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Biosolids Facility Report



Biosolids Facility Report - Universe

Who has a report?

- NPDES ID submitted biosolids annual report electronically between 2016-2025,
- NPDES ID has a biosolids permit component,
- NPDES ID has an “L” as the third character,
- NPDES ID as NPDES Data Group 04 – Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports,
- NPDES ID has a biosolids violation,
- NPDES ID has a biosolids compliance monitoring activity/inspection
- NPDES ID has a biosolids enforcement action.

Biosolids Facility Report

Integrated biosolids annual report, compliance, and enforcement data for each unique NPDES ID included in the universe. Includes:

- Permit information
- Biosolids annual report summary and detailed data (5 years)
- Compliance monitoring history (5 years)
- Violation history (3 years)
- Enforcement history (5 years)

Demonstration



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency