

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

**236 West Lamb Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-1501**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PA DEP Geologist Mark Stephens attending Bellefonte Council Meeting to discuss biosolids

Bellefonte, PA, May 13 – Bellefonte Borough Council at their regular meeting at 7:30pm on Monday, May 16th, will hear comments from PA DEP geologist Mark Stephens regarding the land application of biosolids. Mr. Stephens of the Northcentral Regional Office was the DEP representative who guided development of Bellefonte's source water plan completed in 2014.

Mr. Stephens attended an area meeting in March of this year and stated that the land application of biosolids was not much of a concern due to the regulations that are enforced on the permit holder.

Citizens should consider the facts and not fear campaigns, misinformation or innuendo. PA DEP biosolids fact sheets are available at www.Bellefonte.net or on the PA DEP website.

BIOSOLIDS - QUICK FACTS

Biosolids are not raw sewage

Biosolids must meet quality standards prior to land application

Land application of biosolids is regulated by DEP

Treatment facilities and application sites are inspected by DEP staff to ensure compliance

Biosolids: Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the treatment of sewage sludge. Biosolids can be applied to agricultural fields as fertilizer to improve soils and stimulate plant growth. The application of biosolids is regulated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to ensure the material is treated properly and is then safely applied to agricultural areas. Biosolids must meet specific quality criteria before land application. Biosolids, other than landscape-grade, may not be applied to farmland, forests, or mine reclamation sites that are within 100 feet of a stream; within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling or water source; within 11 inches of a seasonal high water table; or within 3.3 feet of the regional groundwater table.

