

# Press Release

## Water Reclamation Facility Odor Concerns

With spring in the air, this press release is to address the Citizens of the City of Rock Springs about the odors generated by the City of Rock Springs Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

### **The Process**

The WRF receives wastewater through a collection of underground pipe from the City of Rock Springs, White Mountain Water and Sewer District and Clearview Water and Sewer District. The wastewater is mechanically treated through several processes. Clean water is discharged to the Bitter Creek, ultimately flowing to the Green River. A byproduct of this process is the production of Biosolids. Biosolids are beneficially reused for land application at the Sweetwater County Landfill.



The WRF's current process and equipment produces biosolids that are about 20% solid. The biosolids are worked with mechanical aerations equipment, being windrowed and turned daily. This aerations process exposes the biosolids to fresh air, allowing further drying. Once the biosolids are dried to 50% solids the odors are almost eliminated. One of EPA's regulations requires biosolids to be 75% solid content and held onsite for two years before land applying. Once 75% solid content is reached, the dry biosolids are moved to an on-site storage location until hauling off site is permitted.

### **The Problem**

Through the winter months biosolids processing is halted due to freezing conditions and snow accumulation. Biosolids are stockpiled until the weather breaks and the drying process can start again. Stockpiling the biosolids promotes microbiological breakdown, creating odors. Breaking into the pile releases the odors created from this breakdown which carry into Rock Springs.



## The Solution

Unfortunately, there is no simple solution to this problem. The WRF employees and City Administration have discussed this at great length. The short term solution is to dry the biosolids as quickly as possible. We have been working the biosolids as much as possible, spreading biosolids thin throughout the facility to allow more surface area for quicker drying. We are also working on a long term solution. Hauling offsite, incineration and enclosures are just a few of the options being considered as a long term solution. The City of Rock Springs will continue to investigate solutions, picking one that is the most cost effective and reduces the odors significantly. Feel free to contact the WRF with any wastewater questions.



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