



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

August 14, 2000

Ken Kirk
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies
1816 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-2505

Dear Mr. Kirk:

I am writing to you in follow-up to our meeting of August 10, 2000, that was held with you, Dr. Gray, Dr. Kuchenrither, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hoeke, and Mr. O'Dette, at our Washington, D.C. headquarters. We arranged the meeting in response to the request in your letters of July 25 and August 4, 2000.


As we agreed at the close of our meeting, if you have specific concerns about wording in the published version of *Hazard ID #10: Workers Exposed to Class B Biosolids During and After Field Application*, such that there may be misinterpretation leading to health or safety risks to workers, you may identify those specific issues in a letter to me. You also indicated that there may be some additional engineering controls that could be described for the application of biosolids. We would be receptive to working with you and other stakeholders such as the labor unions to develop additional materials on Class B biosolids for our *Hazard Controls* series of publications.

We also discussed the *USA Today* article that appeared on July 13, 2000. The article incorrectly relates the *NIOSH Hazard ID #10: Workers Exposed to Class B Biosolids During and After Field Application* (enclosed) to **environmental** issues surrounding biosolids and incorrectly suggests that the NIOSH document evaluates the EPA biosolids program. NIOSH is the federal agency charged with assessing risks to **workers**, and the document addresses only practices to prevent risk of disease among **workers who are exposed on the job** as they apply biosolids to fertilize agricultural lands or mine reclamation sites. NIOSH prepared the document to fill a need for basic occupational safety and health guidance for **workers** applying Class B biosolids.

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I hope this letter and the published *Hazard ID #10* address your concerns. Thank you for your continued interest in our programs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn A. Fingerhut". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" at the beginning.

Marilyn A. Fingerhut, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff

Enclosure

cc:
Albert Gray, Ph.D., P.E.