



Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Environment Committee
March 16, 2009

Re: SB-995, An Act Concerning Beneficial Reuse, Recycling & Illegal Dumping.

CWWA supports provisions in SB-995 which would eliminate the need for a general permit for the beneficial reuse of residual solids, which are a safe by-product of the water treatment process. Recognizing the safety of such residual solids, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) authorizes their reuse except for commercial sale.

A law adopted in 2004 required the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with various stakeholders, to develop a general permit for the beneficial reuse of residual solids. However, the general permit has not yet been developed.

Unfortunately, there are limited options for disposal of this material. Connecticut water utilities have been working towards developing alternative methods for the use and disposal of residuals for many years. In 1999, CWWA retained a consultant to study the quantity and quality of Connecticut residuals, review state and federal regulations, disposal practices of water utilities, and research other state's residual characteristics and reuse practices. In 2002, DEP staff agreed to pursue the management of residuals as a soil substitute within the existing general permit for the discharge of water treatment wastewater, which was consistent with our 1999 proposal.

Legislation adopted in 2004 moved the regulation of water treatment residuals from the solid waste arena to the existing general permit program where the liquid phase of this material is currently regulated, and called for the creation of an operations plan for residuals blending and reuse, including best management practices.

Topsoil blending, compost blending, and land application of residuals are currently effectively used as disposal and reuse options in other states throughout the U.S., including one company authorized by DEP in Connecticut. This bill will help support alternative options for the use and disposal of water treatment residuals.

The bill would provide water companies with an additional alternative to residuals disposal, which at the moment is limited to landfills, sewers, or recycling through Earthgro (the only company in CT currently

allowed to beneficially reuse residuals). These alternatives are not viable since landfills are quickly filling up and closing and residuals are often not compatible with sewer systems.

The Regional Water Authority successfully completed a demonstration-scale project in 2007, and was allowed to use the blended material in-house, for lawn repairs, etc. However, requests to expand the operation commercially were rejected.

Some contractors/landscapers appear willing to either buy residuals or accept them for free, which would eliminate disposal costs, saving taxpayer or ratepayer dollars. Allowing the reuse of residual solids is a reasonable, practical, and environmentally acceptable alternative for the use and disposal of water treatment solids.

We therefore urge your adoption of this provision.

Please contact CWWA at 860-547-0566 or gara@gmlobbying.com if you have any questions.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut. Membership in the Association is open to all Connecticut water utilities: investor-owned, municipal and regional authorities. As purveyors of public water supplies, our members have an obligation to provide sufficient quantities of high-quality water at a reasonable cost to consumers of the communities served. As an association, CWWA and its members have a keen interest in laws and regulations that affect water utilities or supplies.