

The USEPA, Water Environment Federation (WEF) and Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), are undertaking a massive effort to produce a Solids Processing Design and Management Manual (Manual). The Manual, representing a long-awaited update of the 1979 EPA Design Manual, will be a peer-reviewed document under the standards of WEF's Technical Practices Committees, and involves the coordinated efforts of over 100 volunteer authors and a publication team from WEF.

This paper and presentation addresses the following topics:

- The organizational structure used for the Manual development effort, which includes Task Force Co-chairs to steer the effort, a Project Advisory Board from the participating organizations to bring major resources to the effort, a project administrator to manage the day to day communications, and supporting staff from WEF.
- A coordination plan using Topic Leaders to work with groups of five or six of the 27 Chapter Authors, to ensure that the work schedules for this effort are coordinated with that for WEF MOPs (Manuals of Practice).
- The unprecedented scope of the Manual, which is much broader than found in the WEF MOPs as well as for the 1979 EPA Manual, and will include planning & design chapters as well as discussions of costs and management alternatives.
- The inclusion of chapters on many topics that were not a consideration in the 1979 EPA Manual, including, biosolids management planning, the vital role of Environmental Management Systems in biosolids programs, quantification and management of greenhouse gas emissions in biosolids programs, emerging technologies, and utilization of green gas from anaerobic digestion and land management systems for energy recovery.
- The electronic format to be used to make the information in the new manual more readily available to the user, on a chapter by chapter basis as needed, using a less ponderous process to move forward the latest information.
- Establishing a living document on the web, that can be updated as needed as an activity of the WEF Residuals and Biosolids Committee, made readily available and downloaded directly or possibly via CD or hard copy from WEF, for a reasonable fee.