



LOUISIANA SEWAGE SLUDGE AND BIOSOLIDS PROGRAM



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The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with regulating the use or disposal of sewage sludge and biosolids by permitting facilities treating domestic sewage, transporters of sewage sludge, facilities producing biosolids for beneficial reuse, facilities treating sewage sludge, land appliers of biosolids, and facilities that accept sewage sludge for treatment or disposal. The regulations govern those engaged in sewage sludge generation, processing, transportation, and/or disposal.

DEFINITION

Sewage sludge is defined as any solid, semisolid, or liquid residue removed during the treatment of municipal waste water or domestic sewage. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to, solids removed during primary, secondary or advanced wastewater treatment, scum, domestic septage, portable toilet pumping, Type III marine sanitation device pumping (as noted under 33 CFR Part 159), and sewage sludge products. This includes grease trap waste when pumped/removed from a food service establishment and mixed with sewage sludge. Sewage sludge does not include grit, screenings, or ash generated during the incineration of sewage sludge.

APPROVED USE OR DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Use or disposal options for sewage sludge and biosolids in Louisiana consists of incineration, disposal in a permitted landfill, or treatment of the sewage sludge into biosolids for beneficial use through land application as a soil conditioner and/or crop fertilizer. An alternative is to have sewage sludge pumped out and transported offsite for additional treatment for final use or disposal.

REGULATORY GUIDELINES

The regulations for the Louisiana Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Program are codified in LAC 33:IX. Subpart 3, Chapter 73 - Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids. A copy of the regulations can be found on the DEQ website at:

<https://deq.louisiana.gov/resources/category/regulations-lac-title-33>.

The regulations apply to publicly owned treatment works, privately owned domestic/sanitary wastewater treatment facilities, commercial preparers of sewage sludge, commercial land appliers of biosolids, and transporters of sewage sludge.

The regulations also apply to grease that is generated at and pumped from a food service facility only when the grease is mixed with sewage sludge.

Regulations regarding the closure of oxidation ponds used for treatment of sanitary wastewater can be found at: LAC 33:IX.7301.D.3. Closure may be achieved by submitting a closure plan for disposal of sewage sludge in a landfill, by obtaining a permit for land application as a biosolids, or closure without removal of sewage sludge.

PERMITS & COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

To request issuance of a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit, regulated facilities must complete and submit a permit application for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids in Louisiana.

The sewage sludge and biosolids forms are available on the DEQ website at:

<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/sewage-biosolids>

If a regulated facility proposes to conduct sewage sludge incineration, an air quality or Title V permit with specific sewage sludge incineration requirements must be obtained.

Effective August 20, 2025, all regulated LPDES-permitted sewage treatment facilities must have applied or obtained a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit or must be following the appropriate requirements in LAC 33:IX.Subpart 3.Chapter 73.

Persons who prepare sewage sludge for disposal in a landfill permitted to accept sewage sludge shall follow the requirements at LAC 33:IX.7301.G.

Persons who prepare sewage sludge into Exceptional Quality or Class B Biosolids for beneficial use must obtain a site specific permit.

Persons who have sewage sludge pumped out and transported offsite from a Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permitted facility shall follow the requirements at LAC 33:IX.7301.E.

Transporters of sewage sludge must register annually with DEQ, comply with the standards for vehicles transporting sewage sludge, maintain accurate records through daily logs and manifests, and submit reports to DEQ on an annual basis.

REFERENCES

Regulations and Permitting Requirements are found at LAC 33:IX.Subpart 3. Chapter 73 - "Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge and Biosolids"

40 CFR Parts 501 & 503

For more information, please contact
DEQ's Water Permits Division at (225) 219-
3213.

Sewage Sludge and Biosolids website:
<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/sewage-biosolids>

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