



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Use of the Term Biosolids

FROM: Robert Perciasepe
Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Perciasepe", is written over the printed name and title of the sender.

TO: Office of Water Employees
Regional and State Water Programs Personnel

I encourage you to use the term **biosolids** rather than sewage sludge when describing the residuals from the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working with interested stakeholders to improve public acceptance of the beneficial use of this treatment residual. While all of us will likely slip from time-to-time and use the "s" words ("sludge" and "sewage sludge"), the term **biosolids** is being used more and more by wastewater management professionals and I urge you to also use the term biosolids.

Your use of the word biosolids is an important component in accomplishing one of EPA's policy objectives--supporting and encouraging the beneficial use of these residuals of wastewater treatment. As you know, many of us are already using the term biosolids, and we have found it to be quite helpful. We have used the word biosolids almost exclusively in place of the "s" words in several guidance documents with good acceptance by our customers to stress the beneficial nature of this valuable recyclable product of wastewater treatment processes.

The EPA Biosolids Implementation Team will work to foster greater use of the term biosolids. Dr. John Walker (202-260-7283) will be coordinating the team's efforts on this matter.