

# 2023 Annual New Jersey Clean Water Council Public Hearing

## PFAS Compounds in Water and Wastewater Residuals

### Virtual Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm (or close of testimony, if earlier)

#### PURPOSE OF HEARING

For its 2023 public hearing, the NJ Clean Water Council will continue to solicit public input about environmental impacts of the PFAS family of chemicals, also known as “forever chemicals”. This year's hearing, scheduled for January 19, 2023, from 1 to 3 PM (virtual), will address the management of PFAS in residuals (sludge/biosolids). Residuals are byproducts of the drinking water and wastewater treatment processes and are regulated through NJPDES permits. Through the treatment process, water and wastewater containing PFAS may lead to PFAS in residuals.

In January 2021, the Clean Water Council held a public hearing entitled “Permitting of PFAS Compounds in NJPDES Discharges to Surface Water”. Since this hearing, the Department has required all industrial dischargers to surface water and significant indirect users (“SIU”) to complete a “PFAS Source Evaluation and Reduction Requirements Survey”. Further, industrial dischargers permitted by the Department have been required to sample wastewater for the presence of PFAS. Survey responses and results of the data received to-date can be found at <https://nj.gov/dep/dwg/pfas.htm>.

To further advance the Department’s mission to protect our waters from PFAS, the Clean Water Council is soliciting public testimony focused on how to address the presence of PFAS in residuals and its potential impact on management alternatives. Information on NJ Residuals Production by Management Mode may be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/sludge.htm>.

#### SPEAKERS

- 1:00 Introduction of Issue: Anthony McCracken, CWC Chair
- 1:10 Keynote Speaker: Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, NJDEP
- 1:20 Presentation by EPA: Virginia Wong, Chief, Clean Water Regulatory Branch, Region 2  
Tess Richman, Biosolids Program, Health & Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Water, Office of Science & Technology
- 1:40 Presentation by State of Michigan: Jennifer Bush, Environmental Quality Analyst, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
- 2:00 Public Testimony

## REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY

The Council seeks recommendations regarding how best to address PFAS in residuals. Testimony should consider:

1. In New Jersey, municipal and industrial residuals are managed by a number of alternatives as depicted in Figures 1 – 3 on the following pages.
  - Which residuals type (domestic or industrial) and/or management alternatives should the Department prioritize to further investigate and understand potential impacts to ground water or surface water?
2. The USEPA risk assessment for the PFAS land application criteria is under development with an anticipated completion date of winter 2024.
  - Should the Department require land appliers and preparers of residuals for land application to begin collecting data now to better understand the impacts of land application? Why or why not?
  - If so, what data should these entities collect?
3. Most residuals generators range in size based on NJPDES permitted design flows for POTWs and based on sludge production for industrial facilities. There are hundreds of residuals generators, and each will likely receive monitoring requirements in future NJPDES permits.
  - How should the Department prioritize its efforts to establish monitoring requirements for residuals generators?
  - What factors should be considered in this prioritization (e.g., volume of residuals generated, strength of wastewater)?
4. Technologies are evolving for PFAS reduction in residuals.
  - What specific technologies are available today to treat or manage residuals for PFAS reduction?
  - For these technologies, what is the effectiveness and cost?
  - What secondary impacts, such as air emissions, could potentially result from the use of treatment technologies?
  - Are you aware of any evolving technologies that may become available?

## HOW TO TESTIFY

The Council will provide up to five (5) minutes per oral presentation and strongly encourages the submittal of detailed written comments by email or on paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until January 27, 2023 and can be sent via email to [CWC@dep.nj.gov](mailto:CWC@dep.nj.gov). If submitting electronically, the preferred format is Microsoft Word® 2003 or above (not Macintosh formats).

This public hearing will be conducted through a virtual format using Microsoft Teams. A link as well as a telephone number to the virtual public hearing will be provided on the Clean Water Council website (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanwatercouncil/>) the morning of the hearing.

For more information, including submission of testimony, please send an email to [CWC@dep.nj.gov](mailto:CWC@dep.nj.gov).

# DOMESTIC RESIDUALS

## NJ Domestic Residuals Management Methods (2021)

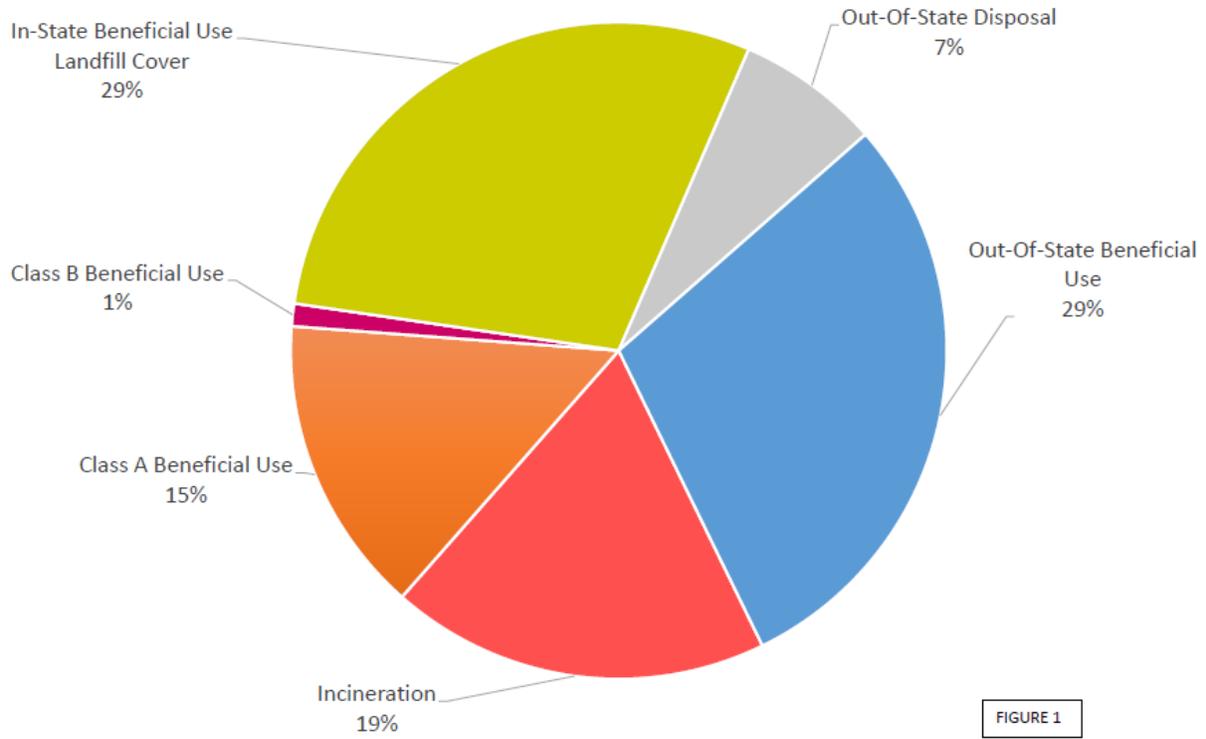


FIGURE 1

# INDUSTRIAL RESIDUALS

## NJ Industrial Residuals Management Methods (2021)

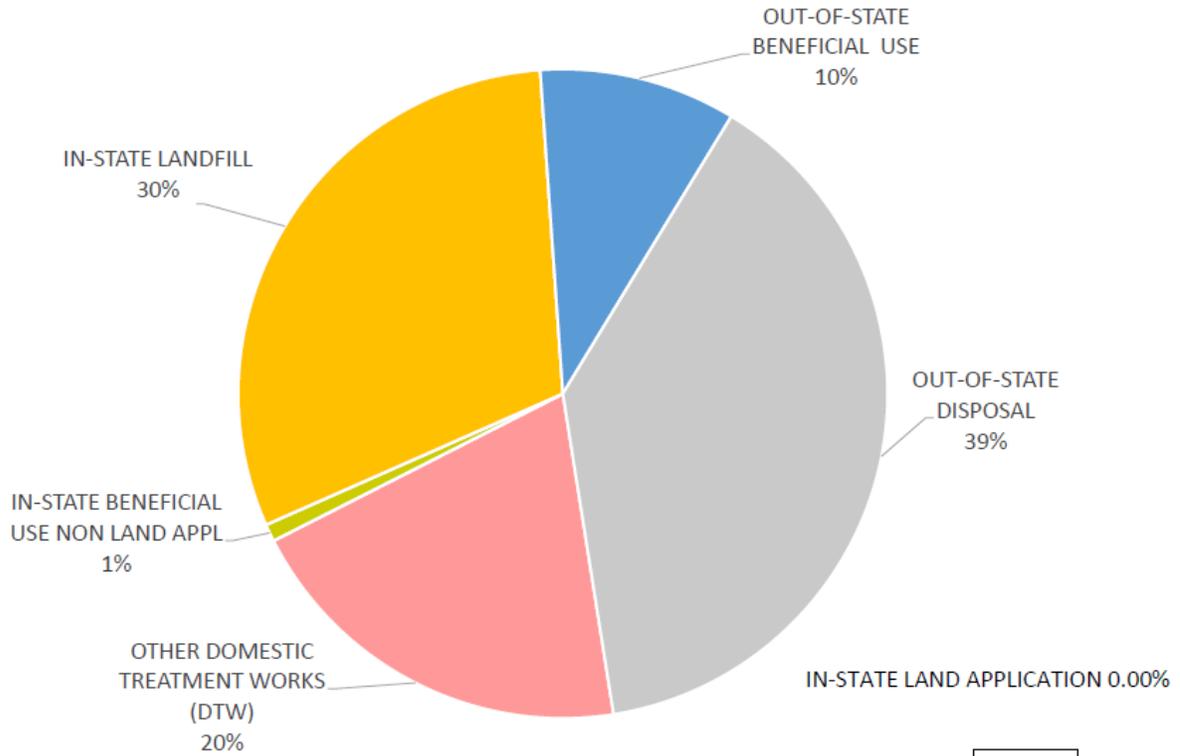


FIGURE 2

## NJ Food Processing Residuals and Water Treatment Residuals Management Methods (2021)

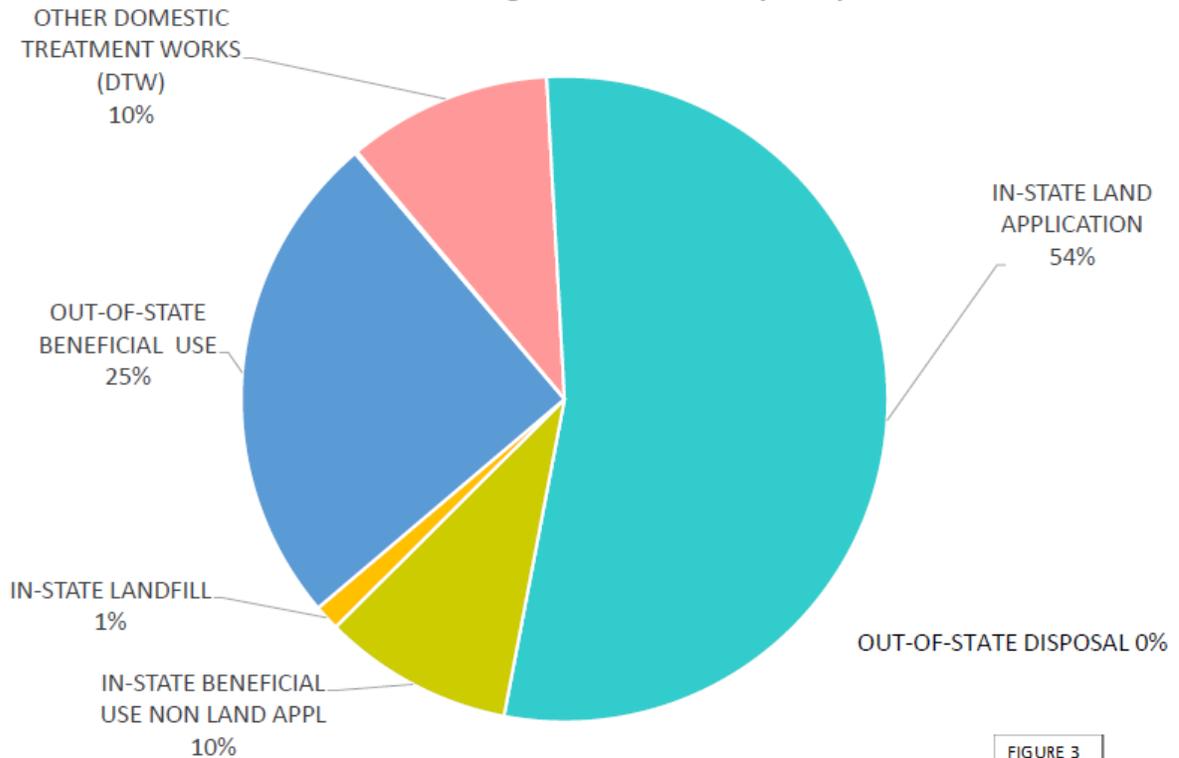


FIGURE 3