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Matt von der Hayden

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RE: Award of Silver Level Recognition and Completion of Formal NBP Training

Dear Matt:

Congratulations! On behalf of the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP), I am writing to award Atlantic County Utilities Authority the Silver Level Recognition for its Biosolids Management Program (BMP). This Recognition is given to Biosolids Management Programs that have:

- completed training and developed a formal BMP based on the principles of continual improvement embodied in environmental management systems (EMS);
- completed a thorough internal audit that tests the BMP and determines if it is ready to pass an independent, 3rd-party audit;
- completed a corrective action plan that addresses the non-conformances identified in the internal audit; and
- had the internal audit report and corrective action plan reviewed and approved by an NBP representative.

As you know, on September 14, NBP representative Sam Hadeed approved the Atlantic County Utilities Authority internal audit report and corrective action plan and signed off on City's application for Silver Level Recognition. Therefore, **the NBP hereby awards Silver Level Recognition** and declares that Atlantic County Utilities Authority is prepared for an independent 3rd-party audit. This is the second significant milestone on the way to demonstrating effective biosolids management through the NBP's program.

This accomplishment also represents the end of the NBP's formal training process. You and your colleagues at Atlantic County Utilities Authority have demonstrated understanding and effective implementation of your NBP Biosolids Management Program. It is now up to you to continue its operation, tailoring it further to meet your needs, while maintaining conformance with NBP standards. To proceed beyond Silver, your next step is to have the BMP go through its first independent, 3rd-party verification audit. We encourage you to consider this step.

After completion of your first 3rd-party audit and initial verification by the auditing company, you will have two choices:

1. Declare your intention to pursue full Platinum Level *Certification* by conducting another 3rd-party audit a year hence, or
2. Declare your intention to pursue full Gold Level Recognition by conducting interim internal audits and submitting reports to NBP each of the next four years and then completing an independent, 3rd-party audit in the fifth year.

You can find additional details about these options at the NBP BMP program website.

Although the formal BMP training process is now complete, please be assured that the NBP will continue communications with Atlantic County Utilities Authority, through the BMP Coordinator. Should the Coordinator change, please inform us as soon as possible. Atlantic County Utilities Authority will continue to enjoy any and all benefits of the NBP program, including mailings, program updates, announcements, recognition items (if Gold or Certified) and other means of support for your BMP.

We value the commitment you have made to quality biosolids management, and we look forward to providing you with continued support in your continual improvement efforts.

Sincerely,



James W. Cox
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