



For Immediate Release
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Alexandria Sanitation Authority Recognized for Environmental Management – Only One of 20 in Nation

The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) recently became only the 20th wastewater agency in the Nation and the first in the State of Virginia to be certified and admitted to the prestigious National Biosolids Partnership environmental management program. The Partnership plans to hold a celebratory event in Alexandria, VA in early July.

The National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) is an alliance of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and Water Environment Federation with advisory support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ASA has been long recognized as one of the region's preeminent environmental stewards and industry leaders. As part of its commitment to protect the environment and help reverse the decline in the Chesapeake Bay's health, ASA has taken take aggressive action to reduce the amount of nitrogen it discharges into the watershed and turn what was once considered waste into a renewable resource.

The Alexandria Sanitation Authority treats millions of gallons of wastewater every day and returns water to the Potomac that is so clean it can be used on the City's parks. Most of the solid materials collected throughout the treatment process are sent to a special ASA processing facility that turns them into a clean, fertilizer-like material that can be spread on farmer's fields in Virginia.

The NBP achievement recognizes that ASA has been independently verified as having an effective biosolids environmental management system (EMS). The Alexandria Sanitation Authority biosolids EMS was independently verified on April 29, 2008 by the audit firm, NSF-International Strategic Registrations, to conform to the NBP's EMS guidance.

The EMS verification signifies that the ASA meets the requirements for certification and admittance to the NBP EMS program and supports excellence in biosolids management practices, exceeds or augments regulatory compliance obligations, and provides meaningful opportunities for public participation.

"The National Biosolids Partnership is pleased with the Alexandria Sanitation Authority successful completion and verification of the NBP EMS program," said NBP Chair Richard Lanyon. "An Environmental Management System is a modern management approach based on

continuous improvement and environmentally sustainable practices. The Partnership believes that instituting an EMS for utility management is vital to enhancing environmental excellence in local communities.”

This is the second time this year that ASA has been recognized for its achievements. In February, it received the *Excellence in Management Recognition* award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies which recognizes public clean water utilities that implement progressive management initiatives that help advance the goals of the Clean Water Act.

For more information on the Alexandria Sanitation Authority Biosolids EMS program, visit our website at: www.alexsan.com . For more information on the NBP EMS program, visit: <http://www.biosolids.org>.

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