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FLORIDA MARKET FOR CLASS A SLUDGE BIOSOLIDS PELLETS, ETC. is SATURATED – SLUDGE IMPORTS DECLINING

(mostly imports from Mass. Water Resources Authority – Boston sludge – spread in FL orange groves) – no new markets being developed for Florida Class A sludge biosolids.

The Changing Landscape Of Biosolids Management In Florida Robert H. Forbes Jr.

(EXCERPTS)

Because of the sensitivity of Florida's natural resources and its growing population, the state produces a large volume of biosolids and other biomass products suitable for unrestricted distribution and marketing; **but markets appear to be approaching saturation for some products, such as alkaline-stabilized biosolids and heatdried pellets. In light of the increasing costs of energy, biosolids are being re-evaluated as a carbon- rich energy source, as well as a source of nutrients and carbon for the soil.**

By 2009, the percentage of Class AA products had increased to approximately 40 percent of total biosolids production, with an estimated 160,000 dry tons of Class AA biosolids products produced in Florida and used primarily within the state. **In addition, 59,000 dry tons of Class AA biosolids products (mostly dried and pelletized biosolids) were imported into Florida from other states that year** (Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), 2010).

By 2009, the amount of biosolids treated to Class AA standards had grown substantially to 160,000 dry tons, or about 40 percent of total biosolids production that year. Primary reasons for the strong shift toward production of Class AA products, despite its higher costs, were (1) decreasing amounts of farm sites within economical hauling distances **and (2) public perception that Class AA products are safer. These two issues are very indicative of national trends.**

. In the latter half of the last decade, however, importing Class A biosolids from other states (almost all in the form of heat-dried pellets) has decreased, while the production of Class AA biosolids within the state has increased dramatically

Producing Class AA biosolids is usually more costly than other options in terms of both capital and operating costs, and only a fraction of those costs can be recovered through product sales. The cash value of biosolids pellets, for instance, has decreased substantially in real terms since mechanical drying of biosolids first began in the 1980s, as more pellets are being produced and the market for product has not grown substantially. "