Treatment of Waste by Anaerobic Digestion

Samuel S. Vedder April 1, 2014 Manufacturer's Zero Waste Conference



Introduction to Grifols

- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Clayton, NC
 ~1600 employees, 240 acres
- Manufacture products from human plasma
- Participant in NCDENR's Environmental Stewardship Initiative (Rising Steward level)
- ISO 14001 Equivalent Program



Significant Waste Streams

- Spent Polyethylene Glycol (PEG)
 - Mostly water
 - Contains PEG, salts and proteins
 - Does not break down in wastewater treatment

- Paste and Filters from plasma fractionation
 - Derived from human plasma
 - Contains proteins, filter aid, filter papers









Volume Increases







Disposal Methods for PEG Waste

- Pre-2009
 - Shipped to facility about 2.5 hours away
 - Solidified and Landfilled
- Mid-2009 to 2012
 - Shipped to a facility about 1.5 hours away
 - Composted
 - Reduced cost
 - Composter had difficulty with high water content
- Beginning 2013
 - Shipped to a facility 9 miles away (20 minutes)
 - Anaerobically Digested







Full Circle Recycling, Zebulon, NC

A complicated but efficient way to treat hog waste (and Grifols waste):



Paste and Filters Waste

- **Regulated Medical Waste** (Body Fluids)
- Derived from Human Plasma
- Treatment incineration at medical waste incinerators
 - Too dense to autoclave or chemically treat
- Significant shipping distances
- Labor intensive

Options

- Landfill
- Incineration
- Anaerobic Digestion





Relationship of Agencies concerning Regulated Medical Waste (simplified)



Grifols "treats"DOT exemptsNmedical waste.Grifols waste.IAfter...OSHA still applies.tr

NCDENR <u>allows</u> alternative final

treatment/disposal.



Result -

•95% decrease medical waste stream disposal.

•Increased recycling opportunities!







Any questions, call or e-mail.

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