

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Summary of the February 26, 2008 Meeting**



**Changing the Balance**

The tenth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on February 26, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide regulatory and legislative updates; provide for an open forum; and hear a presentation on the Status Update on Connecticut's Electronic Waste Law; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

**Opening Comments**

Tessa Gutowski convened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and then brought forward a number of current items that would be of interest to the Committee:

- For this meeting and for the first time, the DEP was experimenting with the use of teleconferencing technology so as to allow members of the Electronic-Waste Regulations Committee to listen in on the presentation being made today. It is the intent to make this an option for future meetings and a notice will go out to the members when this will occur. The DEP is currently in the process to purchase equipment that can accommodate this ability and better capture sound in the Auditorium space.
- In January 2008, the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority had won a Bronze Award in the Fifth Annual Service Industry Advertising Awards (SIAA). HRRA won (under non-profit) a Bronze Award for Outdoor/Transit Ad-Check the Neck. The SIAA is a national competition of more than 2,000 advertisers across the country in different categories. A national panel of judges evaluated and rated entries in twelve groups and twenty-seven categories.
- In February, there were a number of single stream articles in Connecticut newspapers. An upcoming topic in the Advisory Committee lecture series will be single stream, and will be presented in conjunction with representation from the waste hauler industry.
- The DEP has created a website the Disaster Debris Management Preparedness for the State and includes three documents related to the debris clean-up. Of particular interest to the Committee, is the State's Disaster Debris Management Plan, draft 2007 that was previously discussed at a fall meeting. This Plan has received conditional approval from FEMA. Also of interest is that the Requests for Proposals covering debris clean-up and the monitoring of the debris clean-up operations have been posted on the DAS webpage. The web links for the Plan and the RFPs, respectively, are:
  - [www.ct.gov/dep/disasterdebrismanagement](http://www.ct.gov/dep/disasterdebrismanagement)
  - [http://www.das.state.ct.us/Purchase/Portal/portal\\_Bids\\_Open.asp?F\\_Bid\\_Type=2](http://www.das.state.ct.us/Purchase/Portal/portal_Bids_Open.asp?F_Bid_Type=2)
- The Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee Subcommittee on Regulation Reform will be continuing its discussion on e-waste law implementation and will begin in March, drafting regulations to require the addition of plastics 1 and 2, and magazines to the list of mandatory recyclables. The Subcommittee on Increasing Recycling rates has formed two sub –groups: PAYT and Education/Outreach.

### **Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Robert LaFrance, Legislative Program Manager, spoke to the Department's legislative package (a copy of the DEP proposals are attached). LaFrance identified the Agency's highest legislative priority was the restructuring of the fishing licenses, including the creation of a Marine Fishing License and an All Waters Fishing License. LaFrance then spoke to the waste management proposals: the authority for waste demonstration projects and a more streamlined process for beneficial reuse determinations; changing the solid waste fee to include all solid waste and to allow the proceeds to be used to promote municipal and state recycling; and a toxics reduction and elimination proposal that would phase out a class of chemicals known as Alkylphenol Ethoxylates (APE) and a certain class of toxic flame retardants known as Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE). This is a short session, meaning that work of the 2008 General Assembly is to be completed by May. LaFrance will continue to keep the Committee informed of legislative proposals and outcomes.

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided an update with regard to the: Beneficial Re-Use of Coal Ash and Beneficial Re-Use of Contaminated Soils. Based on comments received at the stakeholder meetings, both will be redrafted and be out for another round of consideration later this year (summer/fall). The DEP will be drafting the Waste Characterization Study over the next couple of months.

### **Open Forum**

There were no comments from Committee members. The March speaker will be Mark Cooper, Plant Manager with the Scotts Company and will cover organics.

### **Guest Lecture: CT's Consumer Electronics Legislation – Producer Responsibility in Practice**

Tom Metzner, CTDEP, and panel members – Peg Hall, Solid Waste Manager with the Town of Branford; Gina Chiarella, Chief Operating Officer of WeRecycle; and Irene Rodrigues with Robinson and Cole and representing Apple Computer – discussed Connecticut's E-waste law and regulation development. All the panel members serve on the DEP E-Waste Regulations Committee.

Tom Metzner gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the state's law, and the regulation writing process. The regulations include the process for approving recyclers, allowable costs, standards for approved recyclers, list of covered electronic devices, and municipal plans., Tom presented the timetable for adoption of the regulations and the challenges facing implementation. The timeline includes:

- Adopt regulations by October 1, 2008
- Review and approve recyclers by December 1, 2008
- Provide a list of approved recyclers to municipalities by January 1, 2009
- Municipalities provide convenient and accessible collection by January 1, 2009

The department decided to add printers to the list of covered electronic devices. He went through the decision making process for how wastes were added. Other devices were considered but only printers added to the list of devices.

Peg Hall summarized the Town of Branford's collection system of e-waste. She noted that Branford was the first town to establish a collection program at their transfer station. The first few years they saw steady participation but several years ago saw a significant increase in volumes. Cost remained steady and has gone down significantly over the past few years. Peg related that the biggest advantage to the towns for this program is they will no longer have to pay for recycling or garbage disposal fees for e-waste for the covered electronic devices.

Gina Chiarella of WeRecycle gave her perspective of the law and its importance. Chiarella indicated that the importance of the law was that recycling of e-waste by residents should be accessible and convenient. This law provides other opportunities for other types of similar material. In addition, this law has raised awareness and encouraged the public to ask more questions on product toxicity. As a recycler, believe that you can create a useable commodity, that there can be reuse and refurbishment. However, since there are no clear standards, there could be risk in this approach to protect information left on the computer. WeRecycle remains committed to the reuse issue. Standards are important: particularly from both an environmental and social responsibility perspective. Regardless to the approach used (in-state vs out-of-state recyclers; tied to the manufacturer e or the brand; other), it is the recyclers responsibility to process e-waste in as an appropriate, lawful and efficient manner as possible and required by law. The criteria being used to add to the list of electronic recycling is a good approach.

Irene Rodrigues, representing Apple Computer, gave her perspective of the process and some of the challenges facing the regulation development and implementation. Rodrigues recognized Connecticut's e-waste law as the best in the country and commended the DEP for its regulatory process to date. She indicated Apple had hoped more devices were included in the law. One of the main concerns for Apple was limiting the number of approved recyclers. They want more control over where their product is recycled to ensure high standards.

#### ***Questions and Comments***

There was a question about the availability of the municipal guidance. Tom indicated it has undergone a preliminary review and will go out for a larger review in the next few days.

A commenter raised the point about those living in the city that don't have a car may have a hard time delivering their television or computer to a central location. Tom mentioned that the cities will need to address this in their plan and that the Department was willing to work with them to explore options.

A question was raised about why other items such as keyboards and mice were not included in the list of covered electronic devices. Tom answered that at this time it was difficult to add additional items because of the way the administrative fees were assigned. Manufacturers of mice and keyboards would have to pay administrative fees roughly equal to those of televisions and computers even though the weight and volume would be significantly lower.

A question was asked of Peg and Gina about recycling of other devices. Peg stated her town would continue to recycle these other devices even if they had to pay for them. Gina indicated they hoped towns would recycle these other devices and they cost would be minimal possibly free.

The Full Committee meeting ended and the Sub-Committees (Recycling; Organics; and Statute and Regulatory Reforms) subsequently met.

**The next meeting is scheduled for: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5<sup>th</sup> Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.**

#### **Adjourned**

Summary of minutes dated February 29, 2008