

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Summary of the June 24, 2008 Meeting**



**Changing the Balance**

The fourteenth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on June 24, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide regulatory and legislative updates; listen to a presentation entitled *Understanding New England Construction waste Regulations and Recycling Opportunities*; hold an open forum; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

**Opening Comments**

Tessa Gutowski convened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and then presented to the Committee an update as to current events regarding solid waste issues and provided a status update as to the CTDEP's RFP for a State-wide Municipal Solid Waste Composition and Characterization Study.

- Current events in the News: A Stamford Advocate article on June 10<sup>th</sup> entitled *Official: City to save on new garbage Pact* discussed how the City of Norwalk's Common Council was expected to vote of a new garbage contract with Stamford based City Carting. The City's DPW Director was quoted in the article as saying that the City Carting had the best business and technical proposal and the lowest bid and was unanimously selected by the seven area towns in February. More current information was provided that as of June 24<sup>th</sup>, the issue was not yet resolved and the issue was again being considered by Norwalk. The Hartford Courant had a number of articles concerning CRRA's contracts with 70 member municipalities; specifically mentioned was a group of Hartford area towns (seven) interested in hiring a consultant to explore alternatives to the Hartford RRF. One avenue that they would be exploring other alternative technologies. A Journal Inquirer article on June 19, 2008 entitled *How Long will towns have to wait for energy, trash answers?* discussed the issue of alternative technologies that the Hartford area towns were looking into, asking the question whether the alternative technology will be available to be used on a full scale basis by the year 2012. A Free Press article on June 18<sup>th</sup> entitled *Deposits on bottled water?* discussed Michigan's intent to extend that state's first in the nation bottle deposit law to containers for water, juice and tea bottles. The article reports that state residents now return 97% of their beer and soda cans and bottles which are subject to a 10 cent deposit, but that they throw away 80% of other beverage bottles which have no deposit. The state will be considering this proposal before July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The CTDEP is currently undertaking an outreach campaign to 12 towns in the Bridgeport area; this area was selected because the towns in the southwest part of the State are facing solid waste management contract decisions in the upcoming year. The purpose of this outreach is to increase the statewide tonnage of recycled materials being diverted from solid waste disposal by providing specialized education and outreach to towns (the "Saving Money and Reducing Trash Method") regarding MSW collection along with unit-based pricing structures that increase recycling, reduce trash, and save money. A letter to the towns is going out to the 12 towns' chief elected official, outlining the approach. The CTDEP is offering the services of a solid waste management professional (at no cost to the town) to work with their staff in determining strategies to decrease disposal, increase recycling and reduce spending on solid waste management. The services start with completion of a survey of each municipalities waste generation and recycling rated, disposal costs; calculation of potential cost savings associated with reduced solid waste generation rates

and increased recycling rates; provision of individualized training materials, including a tailored guidebook; and two in-person meetings with town officials, first to develop information and then for the presentation of the guidebook. The CTDEP will report back in September and provide an update to the Committee. DEP will look to allocate resources in the coming months to expand to additional towns and build on this initial effort.

- OPM released the 2007-2008 Regional performance Incentive Program Awards. Of note, there were two projects funded: (1) Central CT RPA was successful in obtaining \$400,000 to support the City of New Britain and Bristol's Resources Recovery Authority bulky waste project (adds to total project costs of \$5.6 million). (2) South Central Regional COG was successful in obtaining \$125,000 to study options available to towns whose contracts with solid waste disposers is expiring within the next three years.
- Status Update-CTDEP RFP for a statewide MSW disposal composition and characterization report. The CTDEP received three proposals by the due date of June 19<sup>th</sup>; the proposals will be evaluated June 25<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation will be made to the Commissioner as to Contractor selection. The CTDEP intends to award the contract later this summer. (NB: Mindful of the State's Contracting Policies and Procedures, there was no discussion following this update to the Committee.)

### **Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

*Legislative update:* Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, discussed the recently enacted Public Act 08-186 which allows for certain waste demonstration projects (see Powerpoint presentation that has been made as part of these minutes). This Act becomes effective October 1, 2008. Conditions for approval are set forth as: necessary to research, develop or promote methods and technologies of solid waste management which are consistent with the goals of the state plan; does not pose a risk to human health or the environment; and it is not inconsistent with related federal acts. The CTDEP will be developing a form; the application fee is \$1000; and the applicant must provide any information that the commissioner deems necessary. The process time evaluating these types of applications will be expedited if the activity supports the recycling goals of the Plan. For more information, contact the Solid Waste Program at 860-424-3366.

- Questions from Committee members: Is it possible that existing facilities could use this vehicle? Isner answered that an assessment of the existing permit would be evaluated to determine the best course of action.
- Question: Would the DEP apply the new Environmental Justice Public Act to these types of applications? Isner answered that the DEP needs to review this issue. However, at a minimum, the BMM&CA would consult with the Agency's Office of Environmental Justice, as is standard operating procedure, with any proposed solid waste activity.
- Question: What about municipalities, how will the DEP assess the \$1000 application fee. Isner reported that as with other fees, the municipalities receive a 50% reduction.

*Regulatory update:* Diane Duva, Assistant Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance provided a brief summary update on the following activities was provided: the Beneficial Use on Coal Ash – being redrafted; the Beneficial Reuse of Contaminated Soils-the DEP will continue working on these over the summer and will provide an update in September; and the DEP is considering next steps/approach with regard to the failed legislative bill concerning Beneficial Use Determinations. The DEP may redirect efforts to developing regulations.

Diane also introduced a number of seasonals working this summer on a number of solid waste projects and introduced Paula Guerrero as the new Processing Technician for the Solid Waste Database.

## **Presentation**

Matt McKinney of The Institution Recycling Network presented a talk entitled *Understanding New England Construction Waste Regulations and Recycling Opportunities*. The Powerpoint presentation is made part of these minutes; the presentation included the following:

- Defining construction waste management
- Advantages of deconstruction and salvage
- Markets
- Identified CT's deconstruction and building material reuse centers
- Identified the recoverable materials of demolition and renovation
- Summarized regional legislation (NH, VT, ME, RI, NY, CT, MA)
- Presented the barriers to CT's C&D recycling: markets
- Provided next steps for CT to improve the recycling and reuse of C&D:
  - Enforce mandates and specifications for publicly/state funded projects; promote permitted markets better; and require cost/benefit analyses
- Presented successful projects where IRN has been involved, including CT projects
- Identified Rick Roberts as the IRN contact for CT (203-868-9875)

Matt stressed the need to have regional markets to take this type of material. He also indicated that it is important to get stakeholder involvement and work together to identify the challenges and seek solutions together. He indicated that MA had good in-state and regional markets but that CT also has similar opportunities for using regional markets as well. Matt indicated that other states that are on the receiving end of our region's waste are getting concerned as the type of material being shipped for disposal and cited Ohio as introducing more regulatory conditions and consequences.

## **Open Forum**

No comments were offered.

The full Committee meeting ended and members attended the subcommittees.

**The next meeting is scheduled for: September 23rd, 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 June 27, 2008