

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Summary of the November 27, 2007 Meeting**



**Changing the Balance**

The eighth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on November 27, 2007 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: learn about the City of New Britain's environmental outreach activities; provide regulatory and legislative updates; provide a summary report of the subcommittees; discuss the 2008 Advisory Committee schedule; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

**Guest Lecture: "New Britain Public Works – Outreach"**

Marilynne Cruz Aponte, Administrative Services Officer with the City of New Britain, presented information as to the City's education and outreach approach to its citizens concerning solid waste management and other related environmental programs and concerns. The City believes that a cleaner and safer community is an important quality of life issue. For many years now, the City has had a line item in its budget for between \$30,000 to \$40,000/year for communications work. The Department of Public Works prepares an annual strategic plan for education and outreach, and scopes out actions month-by-month. The City is multi-cultural and information is provided in English, Spanish and Polish. There is a focus to address a key problem or issue and evaluations are undertaken to determine how successful the message was in getting a desired outcome. Other issues and points raised by Ms Cruz-Aponte included the following:

- It is important to have an on-going funding commitment for communications.
- It is important to have a communications plan; without a plan there is no carry through. The plan is written and is accountable to the residents. It connects services desired by the residents and work efforts by Public Works.
- It is important to sustain a consistent level of effort.
- It is important to refresh the message and make it interesting to the individual.
- Within the Department, approximately 20% of the staff have written into their job description a role in providing effective communications to the residents. In addition, the Department also expects every staff person to be play a role in providing effective communications to the public. In developing their annual strategic communications, input is solicited from all employees. It is important to decentralize the job of communications and utilize the staff you have as efficiently as possible.
- The Public Works Department uses a number of tools to get information out to the public– daily notices; tags; targeted mailings in three different languages; staffing of a live phone line for residents; press releases; advertising; holds special events; participates in events sponsored by others; other venues where appropriate.
- Pilot programs are important tools toward developing new effective programs. An example given is the on-call collection program for bulky waste items. Residents can call on the direct phone line and make appointments for pickup. This program has been effective in eliminating much illegal disposal.
- Focus your message to targeted problems.

**Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided an update with regard to the electronics waste law (draft regulations by end of January), the Municipal

Transfer Stations and Recycling General Permit was pending issuance (\*issued 11/29/07), and that the Beneficial Re-Use of Coal Ash into concrete products was being drafted and should be out for notice shortly.

### **Reports of the Sub-Committees**

Yvonne Bolton, Bureau Chief of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, lead this portion of the meeting and began by thanking Committee members for their interest and participation on the sub-committees. Ms Bolton indicated that over the past year, a number of concurrent efforts have been undertaken: the issuance of the Municipal Transfer Station General permit; the electronic waste Public Act 07-189 and its implementation; development of a General Permit for Beneficial Use of Coal Combustion Products; Development of a General Permit for Beneficial Use of Soil and Sediment (regulated fill); and revisions to the clean fill definitions. A Power Point presentation (see attachment) was made with each of the sub-committee chairs presenting. The presentation included a short description of the issues discussed, with a tie back to the amended Plan, and recommendations going forward. The following summarizes the recommendations from each of the subcommittees:

- Solid Waste Database
  - Recommendations:
    - Eliminate duplicative reporting by solid waste facilities and municipalities regarding amount of MSW disposed and recycled.
    - Eliminate the statutory requirements for solid waste facilities to report to each municipality.
    - Amend Annual Municipal Recycling Report to eliminate the statutory requirement for municipalities to aggregate and report their tonnage of MSW disposed and recycled at reporting CT solid waste facilities.
- Increasing Source Reduction and Recycling Rates
  - Recommendations:
    - Promote implementation of effective unit-based pricing systems by municipalities and haulers.
    - Identify incentives for municipalities and haulers to implement unit-based pricing systems.
    - Increase technical assistance, education, enforcement.
    - Provide training and information to municipal officials, and local and regional waste management staff.
- Organics Recycling
  - Recommendations:
    - Use an SEP or other monies to fund distribution of home composting bins.
    - Promote food banks as a source reduction strategy.
    - Re-Format the home composting, grasscycling, and windrow composting videos into digital format.
    - Establish a statewide on-line materials exchange, and encourage CT compost facilities to register on [www.findacomposter.com](http://www.findacomposter.com)
    - Request that DEP develop a written policy that gives organics recycling facilities priority in the permitting process.
    - Request that organics be included in the RFP for the solid waste characterization study that the DEP intends to undertake.

- Construction and Demolition
  - Recommendations:
    - Request minor changes to the CGS to promote Beneficial Use, by allowing DEP authority to issue individual Beneficial Use Determinations (BUDs).
    - Promote Swap Shops/Material Exchanges/ReStores as a source reduction strategy and link or add these alternatives to DEP website.
    - Develop a written DEP policy that gives C&D recycling facilities priority in the permitting process.
    - Promote C&D waste reduction strategies by builders, developers, demolition companies and other generators of C&D waste.
    - Increase the current \$1.50/ton tipping fee on MSW and extend the fee to the portion of the C&D that is disposed of either in-state or out-of-state to encourage recycling and source reduction.
    - Improve markets for products manufactured from recycling or beneficial use of C&D.
    - Evaluate the use of clean construction wood as a fuel source for future biomass facilities.
- Statutes and Regulation Reforms
  - Recommendations:
    - Adoption of E-waste regulations
    - General Permit for Beneficial Use of Regulated Fill – public notice 2008

### **Open Forum**

The meeting schedule for the Advisory Committee for 2008 was discussed. The DEP put forward a proposed bi-monthly meeting schedule of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Committee members expressed concern that only six meetings were scheduled and indicated that they would prefer to have more meetings. A suggestion was made to begin the meetings earlier and not meet during the summer months of July and August. Another suggestion was made that more time or better scheduled discussion should take place during the full committee meeting period. The DEP took these comments under advisement and indicated that an email would go out to the listserv with a revised schedule.

The full Committee Meeting ended, and the Sub-Committees subsequently met.

**The next meeting is scheduled for: January 22, 2008, 9:15 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 December 19, 2007.