

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the May 27, 2008 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The thirteenth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on May 27, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide an update as to the status of the DEP's RFP for a State-wide Waste Characterization and Composition Study; provide regulatory and legislative updates; listen to a presentation entitled *Covanta and Energy from Waste*; 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 then 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: Hartford Courant article dated May 24th entitled *From Dining Hall to Garden, Colleges in State Turn to Composting their Food Wastes*. The article discussed how a number of universities throughout Connecticut and the region are managing their food wastes. The article stated that Yale estimates that as much as 40% of its trash is organic and that it will be composting this material so as to cut greenhouse emissions, meet new sewer requirements and possibly save some money on disposal costs. The article identified Wesleyan University, Connecticut College and Harvard as already having composting programs in-place. The article identified UCONN as in the final phase of designing a plant that would process its dairy cow manure and maybe handle food waste as well. The article stated that the biggest obstacle to encouraging composting is a lack of infrastructure. The article stated that the state has only one commercial plant that can process food waste (New Milford Farms) and identified a Massachusetts company, (Chestnut Hill Bio-Energy), that wants to build a plant in Waterbury that would convert food scraps into methane gas and electricity. The article also stated waste haulers are also interested in adapting to customer needs and some haulers are retro-fitting their trucks to handle this type of waste.
- CTDEP RFP. The RFP was posted onto the CTDAS State Contracting Portal. The purpose of the RFP is to secure the services of an experienced contractor capable of conducting MSW sorts at in-state permitted solid waste facilities and preparing a state-wide MSW disposal composition and characterization report. The RFP timeline is as follows: May 9th – RFP released; June 19th – Deadline for submitting proposals; July 3rd – Contractor selection – notification to all applicants/start of contract negotiation; and August 15th – Contract language finalized for signature process. The DEP will report back to the Committee with updates at the June meeting. (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: Rob LaFrance provided an update from the recently completed legislative session. Much of the Department's legislative package did not make it through the legislature. Because of a lack of a new budget, none of the funding bills that would have impacted DEP passed, with the exception of the Forestry Bill. There will be a special session and it will likely include small changes to revenue and spending items (such as continuation of the municipal conveyance tax), but it is unlikely that there will be wholesale changes made to the second year of the biennial budget that is already in place. For the most part department bills dealing with solid waste issues failed this session. These bills would have given DEP the authority to provide for a more streamlined process for Beneficial Reuse Determinations; and would have expanded the solid waste assessment fee to other solid waste that is not currently assessed. The Department

is considering these bills for re-submittal for next year's legislative session. Below is a brief overview of Department related legislative activity, with a focus on waste issues, that took place during the final few days of the session:

- Global Warming Solutions - HB 5600, including RGGI piece, passed both chambers as amended by House A - LCO 4970.
- Definition of biomass eligible for Class I status changed in House A (LCO 6376) on SB 26, passed both chambers.
- DEP's SB 585 was killed in Finance, Revenue and Bonding because it contained the \$1.50 solid waste assessment fee that many opposed.
- Changes to E-waste law - SB 582 (market share vs. return share, and extend dates) – passed both chambers.
- Single stream recycling pilot grant amendments were proposed on a number of bills, but ultimately not called or passed in either chamber.
- Bottle bill expansion bill did not pass, but instead was used as a vehicle for an amendment to ban CRRA from siting an ash landfill facility in Franklin or Willimantic. Passed the Senate, called and debated in the House, but ultimately “Past Temporarily”, and it died.
- DPUC rate regulation of Resource Recovery facilities – SB 636 – did not pass either chamber.
- Environmental Justice – 5145 as amended by House A and B, includes the Stratford language, passed both chambers.
- Authorization to allow certain waste demonstration projects was amended to Senate Bill 615 which passed both chambers.

Edith Pestana, Planning Specialist with the CTDEP's Office of Environmental Justice, discussed the Environmental Justice bill entitled: *Public Act 08-94 An Act Concerning Environmental Justice Communities and the Storage of Asbestos-Containing Material*. This Act, pending the Governor's signature, covers “meaningful public participation” in “Environmental Justice Communities” where certain types of “Affecting Facilities” are proposed. This Act also defines “Community Environmental Benefit Agreements”. Each of the terms is defined in the Act, which is made an attachment to these minutes.

Regulatory update: Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided a brief summary update on the following activities: the Beneficial Use on Coal Ash; the Beneficial Reuse of Contaminated Soils; and the modifications just recently made by the legislature to the state's electronic waste law. The modifications have resulted in a change of schedule (six months extension) for the regulations development and adoptions process; the Public Notice, to appear in the Connecticut Law Journal, is scheduled for September. Robert then informed the Committee that the Bureau was successful in hiring three new staff for the Solid Waste Management Enforcement and Recycling Programs.

Open Forum

No comments were offered.

Presentation

Covanta Energy's Steve Diaz, Vice President-Northeast Regional Business Manager, and Derek Grasso, Regional Environmental Manager Northeast, made a presentation to the Committee entitled: *Covanta and Energy from Waste*. The presentation is made a part of these minutes. The very informative presentation covered: Covanta's Core Business of Energy from Waste; its footprint in the US, Asian and European markets; its concentration in the Northeast corridor; outlined Energy from waste Community Benefits; outlined the four RRF projects (Bristol, Mid-Conn, Southeast Connecticut, and Wallingford) in Connecticut; described the energy from waste technology and environmental performance; and the environmental benefits from this type of waste management. Summarized below are some of the major points of the presentation:

- Covanta is a leader in US renewable electricity through waste; Covanta manages over 5% of the nation's waste disposal;

- Covanta has a significant presence in the Northeast region; it is expanding into other solid waste issues including transfer stations, ash disposal, wood waste-to-energy, and landfill gas. In 2008, Covanta acquired the Peabody, MA ash landfill.
- Community benefits include long-term stable post-recycling waste pricing; annual payment to community which hosts the facility; clean renewable power; recycling; reduction of landfill usage and greenhouse gases; minimized truck traffic; community relations programs; local employment; and economic benefits to the local businesses.
- Most recently, Covanta has developed “Low-NOx” technology for its RRFs.
- Connecticut utilizes energy from waste facilities more than any other state in the country.
- Covanta’s new initiative is to continue reducing its environmental impact through: legislative, recycling, technology and community relations goals.
- Summary of Energy from Waste Benefits include: Global (helps reduce GHG emissions by reducing landfill methane gas emissions; National (reduces dependence of fossil fuel by reliably generating clean, renewable energy); and Local (creates local jobs, recycles and encourages recycling, and provides sustainable waste practice for post-recycling residue).

The full Committee meeting ended and members attended the subcommittees.

The next meeting is scheduled for: June 24, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.

Adjourned

Summary of minutes dated June 17, 2008