

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the September 23, 2008 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The fifteenth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on September 23, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide an update as to current related activities; provide regulatory updates; listen to a presentation by three speakers on the topic entitled *Single Stream Recycling Collection*; 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 could be of interest to the Committee:

- ***State of Connecticut Disaster Debris Management Plan and State Contracts:*** The State has successfully completed executing contracts for both debris removal and debris monitoring. The selection of the contractors allowed the state to submit the State Disaster Debris Management Plan to FEMA for final approval. FEMA approval will make the state eligible for an additional 5 percent in federal reimbursement for costs associated with debris clean-up. The additional funding is part of a pilot program administered by FEMA and Connecticut is one of the first states to apply. The DEP was notified by FEMA that sign-off on the Plan will be forthcoming. The Plan has established a framework for state agencies and municipalities to properly manage debris generated by hurricanes, tornados, ice storms or other crises. The DEP prepared the plan with guidance from FEMA and EPA. The plan covers two types of activities: *(1) Debris Removal - Allowing the state to efficiently remove large volumes of disaster-generated debris in a timely and cost-effective manner and lawfully managing the recycling and disposal of the debris; and (2) Debris Monitoring - Allowing the state to perform inspection and monitoring of disaster debris removal operations*

The State has established pre-need, pre-event and as needed basis contracts to assist the State in disaster debris management preparedness. The contracts will be activated only by the Governor as the result of an emergency declaration. These contracts assure the immediate availability of coordinated debris removal support following a catastrophic (i.e., a Category 3 hurricane) debris-producing incident. City and town governments are responsible for all peoples and properties within their boundaries and jurisdictions to the limits of their resources. State and federal agencies are strongly encouraging municipalities to have in-place similar planning documents and contracts. The State contracts were written to address State properties. However, recognizing that municipalities may in all likelihood be overwhelmed due to the magnitude of a natural disaster, municipalities may request that the State assume the responsibility to remove the debris from within their town boundaries. The State will respond to municipal requests to the extent State resources are available. The State will assume the lead role performing clean-up operations and in seeking FEMA Public Assistance funding. The State contracts have been awarded to:

- Beck Disaster Recovery, Inc.; Orlando, Florida – debris monitoring
- AshBritt, Inc.; Pompano Beach, Florida – debris management
- Phillips and Jordan, Inc.; Knoxville, Tennessee – debris management

Link to the DEP's Disaster Debris Management Preparedness Web for more information at:
http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&Q=410492&depNav_GID=1646

- State-wide Solid Waste Characterization Study:*** The DEP has selected the consultant DSM Environmental Services, Inc. located in Vermont to conduct the first ever state-wide waste characterization study. Contract language is still being worked through but the purpose of the contract is to conduct waste sorts at in-state permitted solid waste facilities, resulting in a comprehensive report that characterizes the composition of municipal solid waste in Connecticut. DSM will be partnering with Cascadia Consulting Group and MidAtlantic Solid Waste Consultants, Inc.. This team has collectively completed more waste characterization studies within the US than any other firm, or group of firms, currently conducting these types of studies. Some of these major waste characterization studies include the states of California, Delaware, Wisconsin, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Expect the final contract to be executed later this fall; once executed a final study design will be prepared. The study will consist of two waste sorts at up to five permitted in-state solid waste facilities. Actual waste sorts are expected to begin the early part of 2009. We will be working with the contractor and we will be speaking with CRRA, SCRRA, and BRRFOC for their potential assistance in the study. DEP lead for the study: Tessa Gutowski.
- DEP Municipal Solid Waste Survey:*** Earlier this summer, the DEP sent out a survey entitled “Municipal Solid Waste Management Full Cost Accounting” to all 169 Connecticut municipalities. The survey will help the DEP understand how municipalities are currently managing and paying for solid waste. Based on survey results, DEP is planning to provide a guidance document specifically geared to each municipality suggesting options for increasing recycling and source reduction and potentially decreasing costs for solid waste disposal based on the current municipal solid waste management infrastructure. To date (September 23rd), the DEP has received completed surveys from 87 towns and an additional 21 towns have been working on the survey but as of yet not submitted. The DEP will be contacting the remaining towns that have not yet submitted their completed surveys. During the next two month, information will be downloaded onto an ACCESS database to facilitate analysis. The results will be summarized and posted on the DEP Website. DEP lead for the survey: Judy Belaval.
- DEP Municipal Primer: Your Guide to Creating a “Green and Growing” Community:*** The Municipal Primer provides basic information and guidance to municipal officials on a wide variety of topics related to environmental protection so that local decision-makers are informed about key environmental topics. From land use decisions, to purchasing practices, to the operation of municipal facilities, and more, *The Municipal Primer* provides municipal officials with a tool that allows them to quickly determine which DEP programs relate to any given situation and identifies sources of additional information, including web pages and staff contacts. There will be an event October 3rd open to municipal officials at the DEP headquarters in Hartford; for more information on this event contact Margaret Welch, DEP’s Landscape Steward at 860-424-3618. Link to the DEP’s Web at: http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2703&Q=423114&depNav_GID=1634
- Asian Longhorn Beetle:*** Last month, federal officials confirmed the presence of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in nearby Worcester, Massachusetts. This beetle is a serious pest in other parts of the world and can kill hardwood trees in roadside plantings, shelterbelts, and plantations. In the United States, the beetle prefers maple species. This discovery is a concern; the close proximity to Connecticut definitely places our forests at risk. Residents should also remember to purchase firewood from local sources and not transport firewood from out of state. Firewood arriving to Connecticut from infested areas can easily bring along unwanted hitch hikers like ALB and other harmful forest pests. ALB typically does not spread quickly on its own, but it can easily be inadvertently transported in untreated firewood and other forest products. For additional information on the ALB go to the DEP Forestry section of the DEP Website at http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322792&depNav_GID=1631&depNav=|.
- Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee – Resources Recovery Facility Ownership: Options and Implications, September 23, 2008:*** In May 2008, the Committee approved

a study focused on the future ownership options for the state's four resources recovery facilities currently operating in connection with CRRA. The interim Report was released September 22nd, along with notice of the public meeting scheduled for September 23 at 11 am at the Legislative Office Building. The Report covers all RRFs in state and consists of three sections: an overview of municipal solid waste in Connecticut; information on RRFs now operating in the state; and a description of the roles and responsibilities on CRRA, municipalities and DEP as it relates to RRFs. There will be more work on this topic and the Committee is scheduled to conclude in December 2008. Expect to see the next report issued in December to include conclusions and proposed recommendations. The link to the interim Report is: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri/year2008studies.htm>

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided a brief summary update on the following regulatory activities:

- General Permit for Beneficial Use of Contaminated Soil and Sediments (regulated fill), on hold pending outcome of public comment period for the revision to the RSRs & Solid Waste Management Regulations. Public notice of the regulation RSRs & Solid Waste Regulations revisions is expected in the very near future.
- Coal combustion ash to concrete products general permit/BUD, still at internal technical revision following the initial public comment period. Public notice of revised general permit is anticipated by the end of 2008.
- E-waste Regulations, substantial work in progress, July 1, 2009 deadline for final regulations in place is pushing the development. DEP hopes to get a final draft out to the E-Waste workgroup with as much time as possible and still hold to a July 1, 2009 effective date. Public notice of regulations should be at the end of 2008/early 2009.

Guest Lecture

The topic for this month's guest lecture was "Single Stream Recycling Collection" and speakers included Diane Duve (DEP), George Wallace (DPW – City of Bristol/TROC) and Graham Stevens (FCR Recycling). Each of the speakers prepared a PowerPoint presentation and these can be found on the DEP Website. Each of the speakers gave an excellent presentation and some of their main points are summarized below:

- Diane Duva, Assistant Director/DEP: From the DEP's perspective, anything that increases the amount diverted from the waste stream and increases participation in recycling programs is a good thing. The merits and challenges of single stream were presented. The merits included boosting recycling rates, making it simple to recycle, and cost savings to haulers. The challenges included capital outlays for towns, retrofitting recycling facilities, and concern about the quality of the material and end markets. Diane presented what the DEP was currently doing associated to enhancing recycling collection rates: it has processed a facility modification request for an IPC to accommodate receipt of either single stream or dual stream collected recyclables; conducting the a survey with all Connecticut towns to help towns see the costs of disposal and recycling options more clearly; and with EPA, working with Bridgeport and area towns to consider unit-based pricing approach.
- George Wallace, DPW Assistant Director/City of Bristol and President of TROC: Presented the City of Bristol's Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program. A comprehensive overview was made and included:
 - City background information;
 - Public Works Curbside Collections – Operations 1990+/- to 1998;
 - Changes in Public Works Curbside Collections/Alternative Concepts Developed
 - Background – Automated Rubbish Collection Implemented (B/C)
 - Developments in Recycling – Pilot AA Recycling and Pilot Single Stream Recycling (B/C)

- Conclusions on the single stream collection pilot: makes it easier for residents to recycle (still need to continue education efforts); residents are requesting that program be expanded; pilot indicates significant increase in recycling rates; collection has a lower yearly cost; collection can also be done manually; and cannot do single stream without an IPC that will take and handle the material.
- Graham Stevens, Director of Sustainability and Growth, FCR Recycling: Presented sustainable collection and processing of single-stream recyclables. Spoke to the benefits and challenges of single stream. Described in-state operations and the innovation of managing the recyclables in the Hartford facility. Critical to the success of the operation is the end quality of the material going to end markets. FCR operations stress safety, quality and production, in that order. Important to achieving quality is great communication with CRRA to monitor and improve the inbound quality and great communications with end markets.

Advisory Committee Discussion – Proposed Re-Structure and 2009 Schedule

Tessa Gutowski relayed to the Committee that the Agency has recently undertaken “Lean” which is a process improvement approach and set of methods that seek to eliminate non-value added activities or waste. The DEP is looking at ways in which we can do our jobs more efficiently and effectively and making changes to make it so. Among a key concept for Lean is the process of “plan-do-check-act”. With this in mind, the solid waste management and planning staff got together this August to evaluate overall how well the Advisory Committee is working, with consideration given to “value added” for both the internal and external stakeholders. After considerable discussion, the following proposed structure gained favor: keep the same number of meetings per year but change the format for four of the nine meetings to solely focus on a special topic (i.e., unit based pricing and the initiative taking place southwest Connecticut’s) and bring to closure the four subcommittees (Organics; C&D debris; Source Reduction and Recycling; and Regulations). The following proposal was sent to Committee members prior to the September meeting:

Current structure:

Nine scheduled monthly meetings consisting of:

- Full Committee meeting session from 9:30 am to 10:45 am and then a breakout to subcommittee work from 10:45 am to 11:30 am.
- Months include: January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November

Proposed:

Nine scheduled monthly meetings consisting of five Full Committee Meetings and four Single Topic Focus Meetings:

- Five Full Committee meetings - usual format (guest lecturer) ending at 10:45 and then convene a short open working topic session (in lieu of subcommittees):
 - Months include: February, April, June, September, and November
 - Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Potential Topics: Source Reduction and Recycling Education; Recycling at Public Events; Data Management and Web site reports; Organics Recycling; Enforcement; other to be determined
- Four stand-alone Single Topic Focus meetings – expand upon a particular topic that furthers solid waste policies and Solid Waste Management Plan implementation of strategies:
 - Months include: January, March, May, and October
 - Time 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Potential Topics: Legislation, E-waste; permitting, Beneficial Use Determinations, Regulations; Source Reduction and Recycling Education; others to be determined

Committee Discussion on the proposed re-structure: There was concern raised that with the new structure, the DEP may not be staying to task for priority topics/issues. In response to this concern, the stand alone Single Topic Focus meetings are intended to serve that purpose of focusing on the operational priorities of the Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance. The DEP will present a schedule in advance of the lectures and the single topic issues that will occur. The Committee was urged to provide their input to the DEP as to the topics that should be presented as well.

Outcome: The DEP will proceed with the restructure as proposed.

Schedule for 2009:

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26
- June 23
- September 22
- October 27
- November 24* (may be moved November 17th)

Open Forum

No comments were offered.

Presentations

The full Committee meeting ended and members attended the subcommittees.

Please note that the *October meeting has been canceled* due to scheduling difficulties. The presentation by Kristin Brown, President of Waste Solutions, on the “*Smart*” *Solid Waste Management Initiative* will be rescheduled for the early part of next year.

The next meeting is scheduled for: Monday, November 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106. The Guest Lecturer will be Scott Cassells from the Product Steward Institute.

Adjourned

Summary of final minutes dated October 3, 2008.