

**Solid Waste Master Plan Workgroup on Siting Waste Diversion Facilities
Summary of Meeting #3 – March 25, 2009**

1. Participants did not have any comments or questions regarding the summary of Meeting #2.
2. Definitions – there were comments about several of the definitions in the regulations at the last meeting. Further discussion held on the definitions of:
 - Co-mingle – participants expressed concern that the definition not be too limiting
 - Single-stream – again, participants do not want this definition to be too limiting
 - Recycle – discussion about one-time vs. multiple use and what counts as recycling (making a fuel?), should consider how sustainable the activity is
3. Exempt Operations – discussed the exemptions that currently exist in the regulations and how to expand them. Consensus is to eliminate the 100 tpd limit as long as it would be for typical recyclables such as bottles, cans and paper. Concern expressed though that if the definition of “recycling” were expanded to allow for gasification, then would not want that limit expanded. A few issues:
 - What is the tipping point for the largest size of an exempt operation? Traffic, which is always an issue, can be addressed at the local level in any case.
 - Methodology of process an issue for some types of operations:
 - Composting and volume and whether indoor or outdoor operation
4. Composting Facilities –
 - Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) concerned with how farms maintain agricultural identity
 - Registered farms want to raise the limits on how much off-farm materials they can accept
 - DAR looking at whether their registration process still works. Can people be minimally engaged in agriculture in order to become what amounts to a commercial compost operation. The definition of an agricultural unit is very broad and allows small agricultural operators. What is a genuine agricultural activity?
 - A problem with a goal of increasing the diversion of organics is that there is an inability to site large composting or digestion facilities
 - The lack of regulations for composting and digestion facilities is seen as a barrier.
 - One question is what kind of effort has even gone into trying to site a larger facility?
 - Concern that no planning has been done by the state on where digestion facilities should go in relation to source material.
 - The recycling operation exemption could serve as a model for food-waste processing operations:
 - Exemption for up to a certain size or tonnage of facility, then must go through the Determination of Need (DON) process
 - Composting in windrows – maybe keep limits where they are now
 - Digestion – since contained, total tonnage could be higher

5. Determination of Need (DON) Process – serves as a catch-all, but too limited as is
 - SEMASS fats, oils, and grease doesn't fit into any categories, even though proposing to locate the process on a site-assigned property
 - How should a DON work for an activity that is at a site assigned SW facility?
 - DON must only be allowed where no toxicity issues – must define feedstock that is allowed

6. Next Steps:
 - As part of drafting the SWMP, MassDEP will consider draft regulations to address siting of facilities that divert waste from disposal.