



Department of Environmental Protection

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Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary

June 25, 2015 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

Introductory Remarks

MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg addressed the group for the first time in his current capacity as DEP Commissioner. He noted the introduction of a new Permit and Regulatory Ombudsman to serve as a point-of-contact for permit applicants as well as citizens concerned about the impacts of new projects, as well as the creation of the Municipal Partnerships Office to work closely with municipalities and local officials and legislators. The Commissioner also reflected on the impact of the early retirement initiative on MassDEP's ability to deliver core services in a timely manner.

Comment: Praise for MassDEP's recent comments on MS4 permit for phosphorous.

Question: How will early retirement impact response to permit applications?

Response: Maintaining MassDEP's ability to move good projects along in a reasonable manner is a top priority and current staff will coordinate to meet the demand.

Single Stream Contamination Workgroup

Brooke Nash from MassDEP introduced representatives of an ad hoc working group that is addressing growing contamination in the residential recycling stream, largely in single stream collection programs. Chris Beling from EPA Region 1 summarized the problem, the stakeholders, and the important role that MassDEP plays in this dialogue. Bill Stanwood, Town of Ashby, who convened the first working group meeting in September 2014 with help from MassDEP and EPA, suggested a need for a national conversation on preventing single stream contamination.

Jim Nocella from Waste Management presented a slideshow with Bob Cappadona from Casella Recycling that showed the effects of single stream contamination on recycling plant operation, particularly wood, garden hoses, heavy metals, food waste, and plastic film. Jim and Bob both pointed out recent developments that have affected recycling, such as the higher cost to process less stuff (due to light weighting of packaging), the significant decline in newspaper, and the hope that commodity markets and

technology will catch up to some of the emerging trends in packaging (such as using flexible materials, pouches).

Greg Superneau from the City of Springfield also gave a presentation and spoke about educating the public. When Springfield started single stream recycling with large carts, their recycling tonnage increased significantly. Drivers use a semi-automated process and can view contents of a cart before tipping. They recently stepped up enforcement of recycling rules; drivers reject carts with excessive contamination at the curb. The outreach campaign includes clear pictures and less text, on tangible items like magnets or calendars to explain what can and can't be placed in a single stream bin.

Michelle Bernier from the City of Attleboro also spoke on providing direct training to residents found to be contaminating bins. She mentioned how both municipalities and haulers have a hand in reducing contamination.

Comment: If markets were better, there would be more ability to process materials to meet the standards of buyers.

Comment: The state, haulers and municipalities have invested heavily in the system, so it makes sense to get it right.

Draft Framework for Business Recycling Development Grant Program

Greg Cooper from MassDEP introduced the framework for a grant program that supports recycling activities for targeted materials such as carpet, mattress, glass and food waste de-packaging. As proposed, grants will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 and eligible entities must operate in Massachusetts and accept Massachusetts materials. The grant program is intended to kick-start recycling of these materials, stimulate markets and create infrastructure.

Suggestion: Talk to entities that accept donations to learn about how to kick-start markets for bulky items, textiles, etc.

Question: Why not add some of these items to the Waste Bans?

Response: The aim of the grant program is to create a recycling infrastructure for these materials, which does not currently exist at a level that could accommodate a waste ban. For example, several years of outreach and investment was necessary in anticipation of the recent ban on commercial organics.

Implementation of Executive Order 562, To Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden

Nancy Seidman from MassDEP spoke on Executive Order 562, which asks executive agencies to review all regulations and make recommendations about which could be sunsetted or streamlined. Regulation amendments and rescissions are expected to be complete by the end of March 2016. MassDEP has made suggestions to the Executive Office of Administration & Finance for regulations and attempted to identify any regulations that are duplicative or reflect a previous landscape that no longer exists, particularly given resource constraints of MassDEP.

Question: Which regulations will be looked at that are more stringent than federal regulations?

Response: Nancy offered to have an offline discussion on specific items to be reviewed.

Interim Reclamation Soils Policy

Sarah Weinstein from MassDEP introduced a new Interim Policy for using soil that is generated at construction sites and contains measurable concentrations of oil and/or hazardous materials to reclaim quarries, sand pits and gravel pits. These soils should cause no harm to health, safety public welfare or the environment. More sensitive environmental areas of course require “cleaner” soils (containing lower levels of oil or hazardous materials), contaminants, while less sensitive areas may be able to accept soils containing a higher level of those materials.

The state has issued the draft interim policy for public comment. Reclamation projects planning to accept more than 100,000 cubic yards of soil would need a MassDEP approved management plan (which includes a documentation system for accepting safe soil, ability to deal with nuisances and protect the surrounding environment), appropriate local notifications, and addressing concerns raised by local officials about the project.

The overarching goals are to avoid the creation of new releases of oil and hazardous material that would be reportable to MassDEP under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, and to ensure that the receiving locations do not become solid waste “dumps” under M.G.L. c. 111, section 150A.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 22, 2015 at MassDEP’s Boston office.