

Meeting Notes:

Recorded by: Mike Elliott

NOTE: Copies of the meeting notes and presentation slides are available on the MassDEP C&D Subcommittee webpage. The MassDEP C&D Subcommittee webpage can be found at the following link: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/cd-subcommittee.html>. Comments can be submitted via email to Mike Elliott at michael.elliott@mass.gov.

The following agenda items were covered during the meeting:

1) Welcome/Safety/Introductions

MassDEP welcomed participants to the webinar.

- Participants on webinar: 46 (as recorded on webinar attendee report)
- Participants reflected a cross-section of stakeholders representing: C&D Processors and Transfer Stations; Waste Haulers; Recycling Processors; Recycling/Re-use End-Markets; Construction Management Firm representatives, Consultants, Academia, Trade Association Representatives, Solid Waste Management Officials Organization, and State Officials
- MassDEP reminded everyone of the need to remain vigilant to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission by following public health guidelines.
 - Cover your face
 - Wash your hands
 - Socially distance
 - Be vigilant for symptoms
 - Stay home if you feel sick
- MassDEP also provided the link to COVID-19 information specific to the Solid Waste industry (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/massdep-solid-waste-policies-guidance-fact-sheets# covid-19>).

2) C&D Recycling Industry and Markets in a COVID-19 World

MassDEP provided a brief summary of the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency on the operations of Massachusetts C&D Handling Facilities, from the Governor's initial state-of-emergency declaration on March 10 to where we are today in Step 1 of Phase II of the 4-phase Reopening Plan.

During the conference call, we heard from 6 C&D Processors, 2 end-markets, 1 construction management firm representative, and 2 industry associations. In general, some of the recurring themes were as follows:

- Regionally, construction activity dipped to its lowest point in April, and started to recover in May. By June, activity is approaching pre-Pandemic levels.
- At the lowest point for inbound volumes, two C&D processors in the metropolitan Boston area stopped running their processing lines. All other facilities reported that they maintained operations with some modifications to address safety concerns. One operational adjustment

was to reduce hours of operation to allow time to finish processing materials received with reduced/thinned-out staff. As of the date of the meeting (18-Jun), all C&D processors are fully operational again.

- Most facilities had employees self-quarantine due to symptoms or close contact with individuals who tested positive. Only two facilities had employees who actually tested positive.
- To satisfy the mandatory safety standards for continued operations under the 4-phase Reopening Plan, the C&D Handling Facilities described similar protocols that have now become standard practice. For example:
 - Thin out labor in the picking room to create appropriate distancing
 - Stagger breaks to prevent crowding in break room
 - Sanitize facility daily, and work stations more frequently
 - Follow CDC and Mass Reopening guidelines
 - Take employee temperature daily
 - Limit handling of tickets; no signing tickets
 - No cash transactions allowed
 - Train employees on COVID-19 work practices
 - Post signage
 - Facility disinfection procedures should employees show symptoms or test positive for COVID-19
- None of the facilities reported any disruptions in being able to move processed materials to end markets during the state-of-emergency. Two facilities in Brockton experienced a minor disruption to the availability of rail cars. The carrier, CSX, ran into staffing shortages when a couple rail employees tested positive. CSX quickly made staffing adjustments and resolved the problem allowing shipments to resume in a timely fashion.
- A representative from Tafisa, Massachusetts' largest end-market for C&D Wood, reported that they had experienced a similar pattern in business activity, but were now operating normally. The representative reported that Tafisa had some concerns about three weeks ago when it appeared that the production demand had recovered a little faster than the supply of C&D wood. During this time, Tafisa had to rely heavily on its winter stockpile in Skowhegan, Maine, but the situation is looking much better now. That said, the supply of C&D wood from MA and NH is still not back to full capacity, and Tafisa remains concerned about the impact on the supply chain should there be a 2nd wave of elevated infection rates later in the year.
- Representatives of a multi-national gypsum recycling company, New West, and the North American Gypsum Association both reported that gypsum wallboard manufacturers had experienced some decline in business during the month of April, but business has picked up again in May, and they are now operating at near normal levels.
- The executive director of the national C&D Recycling Association, Bill Turley, reported that at its lowest point, the C&D recycling industry nationally had dropped to about 20% of its normal production. Some areas are still operating about 50% of normal production. But most areas are recovering more quickly to normal levels. The big fear of course is the impact of a 2nd wave of high infection rates should that occur as some have suggested.

3) C&D Minimum Performance Standard Implementation

MassDEP provided an update of the C&D Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) Implementation Plan:

- Started with a reminder of the two performance criteria specified in the C&D MPS.
- Showed a graph of the inbound material trends including the most current annual report data for CY2019.
- Then showed two scatter plot charts for individual Process Separation Rates at facilities that submitted annual reports in CY2019: one chart for the 18 C&D Processors, and the other for the 11 Large C&D Transfer Stations.
- Provided a reminder of the MPS Implementation Plan schedule; then described a plan to issue formal Request for Information (RFI) letters later this month as part of the site visits/audits that were always planned as part of the implementation schedule. The RFI letters are intended to be a more efficient way to collect two types of data and reduce the amount of time that MassDEP will need to spend onsite:
 1. Monthly operational data for the first 6 months of 2020
 - Better understand impact of COVID-19 pandemic on operations
 - Factor into compliance evaluations in 2021
 2. Clarify and verify data that was reported by facilities in the CY2019 C&D Facility Annual Reports.
 - Serve as a learning tool to improve data reporting for next year when it will be the basis of MPS enforcement
- The presentation slides also include links to online resources where the regulated community can find more information about the C&D MPS.

4) 2030 SWMP Update/Proposed Waste Bans

MassDEP provided an update on the status of the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan.

- The update reported on the three proposed new/modified waste ban materials:
 - Commercial organic material (food material)
 - lowering threshold from 1 ton to ½ ton/week
 - Mattresses
 - Textiles
- One webinar participant, Steve Changaris, Director of the National Waste Recycling Association – Northeast Chapter, inquired whether MassDEP would engage in any further stakeholder process before formally releasing the proposed waste bans for public comment. MassDEP Solid Waste Deputy Division Director, John Fischer, responded that this section of the reg revision package is currently undergoing internal management review, and he could not commit to further informal stakeholder engagement at this time. However, MassDEP plans to continue to work with stakeholders on developing supporting outreach and action plans for these materials.

5) RecyclingWorks Resources for Construction & Demolition Materials

- Abbey Massaro of RecyclingWorks, MassDEP's Technical Assistance Resource, provided a succinct summary of a few of the tools that businesses interested in recycling/reusing C&D materials can find on the RecyclingWorks webpage. These are "living" documents that are continually updated to remain current with changes in the industry.
- Abbey's presentation slide contains live links to these useful tools. Please check them out.
 - Find a Recycler Tool (<https://recyclingworksma.com/find-a-recycler/>)
 - C&D Best Management Practices (<https://recyclingworksma.com/construction-demolition-materials-guidance/>)

SWAC C&D Subcommittee Meeting
MassDEP – Bureau of Air & Waste
June 18, 2020; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- C&D Webinar Recording (5/21/2020) (<https://vimeo.com/424079480>)
- Technical Assistance (<https://recyclingworksma.com/how-to/recyclingworks-technical-assistance/>)
- Please feel free to reach out to Abbey for more information:
 - Phone: 413-348-1640
 - Email: abbey.massaro@cetonline.org

6) CDRA National Perspective

- CDRA Executive Director, Bill Turley, provided a list of some of the issues that his organization is addressing on the national level. Among other things, he mentioned:
 - AFL-CIO lawsuit for OSHA to develop a guidance for employers to protect workers from COVID-19 infections on the job
 - Recycle Recover Act
 - Green Build Show later this year has been cancelled
 - Retained University of Florida to provide roadmap for reuse of C&D materials
 - Retained University of Florida to research effectiveness of mixing biochar with C&D Fines to reduce hydrogen sulfide emissions
 - C&D World Conference in March 2021 is still planned to occur
 - For more information, please reach out directly to Bill at turley@cdrecycling.org.

7) Other Updates that did not appear on the slides

- MassDEP will host a Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting next Thursday (25-June) via webinar at 1:00 PM. You can register for the webinar at the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7201955500931172110>.
- EBC-New England is planning a meeting/webinar on the MassDEP C&D Action Plan on December 1, 2020. Please watch for more information to come on this.

8) Closing/Next Steps

Next meeting of the C&D Subcommittee: The next meeting of the C&D Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday October 29, 2020.

Respectfully,

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