## Meeting Notes:

Recorded by: MassDEP and Recycling Works staff, edited by Mike Elliott (MassDEP)

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: <u>https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-construction-demolition-subcommittee</u>. Comments can be submitted via email to Mike Elliott at <u>michael.elliott@mass.gov</u>.

### <u>Agenda</u>

- Welcome/Introductions
- Overview of Statewide Bulky Waste Characterization Study
- Wood Markets

#### Welcome/Introductions

MassDEP welcomed participants to the webinar.

- Over 75 individuals attended some portion of the webinar, approximately 50-60 individuals attended for the full 90 minutes.
- Participants reflected a cross-section of stakeholders representing: Large C&D Handling Facilities; Material Recycling Processors; Recycling/Re-use End-Markets; Construction Management Firms; Public Utility service providers, Waste Haulers; Trade Association Representatives; Industry Consultants; State/Municipal Officials.

#### **Overview of Statewide Bulky Waste Characterization**

MassDEP provided an overview presentation summarizing the "Statewide Bulky Waste Characterization Study" report, dated June 30, 2022, that was prepared jointly for MassDEP by the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) and MSW Consultants.

- The Bulky Waste Study report can be found on the MassDEP "Managing C&D Waste" website at the following link: <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/statewide-bulky-waste-characterization-study-june-2022/download</u>.
- The study provides empirical data defining the composition of bulky waste loads by material category including what percentage of these loads consists of either waste ban materials or other recoverable materials. The study was conducted over 10 days during the month of May 2022 at five Massachusetts C&D handling facilities across the State that receive large amounts of bulky waste. An essential finding of this study is that there is a significant percentage of Waste Ban materials contained within the Bulky Waste Stream. At just over 37 percent, Waste Ban materials made up the largest fraction of Bulky Waste.
- MassDEP believes that this study provides strong empirical evidence that the 15% minimum threshold for the MPS Process Separation Rate based on the total inbound material accepted, including bulky waste, is not unreasonable; and arguably, the evidence could be used to suggest that MassDEP would be justified to set PSR minimum threshold at a higher level.

- Several C&D industry representatives expressed surprise and skepticism about the study's findings. They questioned the waste characterization methodology and suggested some possible limitations that could have affected the outcome, for example:
  - Seasonality: Critics argued that the study only represents one season; material composition could vary by season.
    - MassDEP acknowledged this as a valid concern but suggested that seasonality is more likely to impact mixed C&D waste loads that fluctuate in composition according to the seasonal construction cycles, but not so much for the Bulky Waste composition. As concerns Bulky Waste, seasonality is less of a factor - a home or office clean-out seems likely to have similar material composition no matter what time of year the work is done.
  - Conversion of volumetric estimates to estimated weight and mean percent of material categories present.
    - As described in the report, the independent professional data collection staff conducted the visual surveys using a hand-held tablet device equipped with an app that allowed real time comparison of the volumetrically derived weight of any given load compared to the actual scale weight measured by the host facility. Any discrepancies were identified and adjustments to volumetric estimates and/or density factors were made to reduce the degree of difference. This is a well-accepted methodology, and it was performed by a well-respected consulting firm that has considerable experience with these field techniques.
  - Study didn't account for operational differences of the individual host facilities (e.g., ratio of Bulky Waste accepted compared to total inbound materials, negative pick versus positive pick separation, etc.).
    - These arguments are not relevant given the nature and scope of this study.
    - The scope of this study was simply to characterize the composition of bulky waste loads – determine what percentage of these loads consists of waste ban materials or other recoverable materials. The study was not about evaluating the operational effectiveness of each individual facility at separating waste ban or other recoverable materials.
    - Bulky waste loads were selected on the basis of several factors: the contents of the loads as received, the source of origin of the waste loads, the type of truck, and/or the type of hauler. It made no difference whether the host facility processed the load in their processing line, kicked sorted the load, or simply passed it through to the residual pile for disposal. If the load met the criteria as Bulky Waste Load or a Mixed Bulky Waste/C&D load as determined by the study criteria, then it was sampled and surveyed. The data results reflect the compositional make-up of each category of waste type, irrespective of how the host facility managed the waste after receipt.
  - Bill Turley, of the C&D Recycling Association, reiterated that the ability of the C&D processors to successfully recover materials for reuse and recycling is predicated on the availability of end-markets to make such processing economically viable. Mr. Turley asked if MassDEP expected processors to separate recyclable materials regardless of the economic cost.

 MassDEP responded that, by regulation, C&D handling facilities are required to separate all waste ban materials to the greatest extent possible regardless of cost, or transfer such loads to facilities capable of doing so. Beyond that, it is up to the facility's discretion whether it chooses to separate any more materials for recycling/reuse.

- C&D Handling facilities are unique among all permitted solid waste facilities in Massachusetts in being allowed to accept waste loads containing waste ban materials without having to reject such loads or manage them as "failed loads". But that privilege is premised on the expectation that C&D Handling Facilities are capable of separating waste ban materials to the greatest extent possible.
- It doesn't matter if the waste ban materials show up in a mixed C&D waste load or in a Bulky Waste load, waste ban materials must be separated for reuse/recycling to the greatest extent possible regardless of cost from whatever loads are accepted by a C&D Handling facility, or transferred for further processing to a facility that can separate the waste ban materials to the greatest extent possible.
- Melissa Wenzel of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency also participated on the call and reported that her agency had recently engaged the services of the same consulting firm, MSW Consultants, to conduct a similar waste characterization study across the State of Minnesota using similar visual survey methodologies during two seasons in the Spring and Fall of 2019. Ms. Wenzel provide a link to the Minnesota C&D Material Composition Study. It can be found at the following link: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw5-55.pdf.
- Ms. Wenzel reported that her agency received similar questions from the regulated community when they published their report.

# Wood Markets

MassDEP summarized the current constraints on the two largest outlets available to Massachusetts C&D processors for the C&D wood chip product they produce:

- PRE-Greenleaf biomass gasification boiler in Plainfield, CT
  - Unscheduled shutdown of indefinite duration due to turbine failure (5/27/2022)
  - Exact start-up date remains uncertain
    - Simple fix: ca. Oct/Nov 2022
    - More complicated fix (e.g., rebuild entire turbine)": 6-months, ca. 1Q2023
- Tafisa, particle board manufacturer in Lac Mégantic, QC
  - Scheduled 2-week shut-down for annual repair & maintenance in the mill
    - Originally planned from 7/25-8/08; Bill Murdock, Wood Buyer for Tafisa, reported that due to a government agency led investigation into a safety accident on the C&D line last week, the start-up may be delayed until later in the week of 8/08.
    - Tafisa's VP of Wood Supply, Sylvain Martel, and Bill Murdock will be visiting all MA and NH suppliers during W/O 8/08.
  - Bill also offered the following comments:

- After maintenance shutdown, Tafisa expects to come back stronger and capable of processing wood chip at the full capacity of the mill.
- That said, Bill opined that amount of wood produced in the MA and NH market may exceed what can be absorbed by Tafisa and PRE-Greenleaf combined
- Bill also reported an uptick in non-ferrous metal showing up as a contaminant in wood chip from MA and NH.
- MassDEP reminded C&D Handling Facilities that if they are unable to find outlets for the C&D wood chip (either recycled as feedstock, used as biomass fuel, or disposed at a Waste-to-Energy Solid Waste Combustor), then they must obtain approval a temporary waste ban waiver to dispose of C&D wood in a landfill either in-state or out-of-state.
  - Another advantage of obtaining the required temporary waste ban waiver is that next year when MassDEP is analyzing the annual report data for compliance with the MPS Process Separation Rate minimum threshold in 2022, MassDEP will take into consideration the amount of wood sent for disposal under the waiver. If there was no waiver granted, then no consideration will be given for failure to comply with the MPS.
- Temporary waste ban waivers can be issued by either the Boston office (John Fischer\Mike Elliott) or by the regional sold waste section chief where the facility is located.
  - Approvals are granted for limited quantities and limited duration
  - Approvals can be renewed upon written request
  - Facility must demonstrate that it has pursued alternative outlets to absorb some or all of the C&D wood it is capable of producing.
  - Approval requires tracking and reporting of C&D wood quantities disposed under the waiver

END of Meeting Notes.