

ECOS Waste Committee Meeting Notes
2005 Annual Meeting
Convention Hall at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, Maine
Thursday September 8, 2005; 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Welcome – Ron Hammerschmidt, Kansas DPHE

Focusing State RCRA Programs on Resource Conservation and Prevention – Arleen O'Donnell with Massachusetts DEP and Dawn Gallagher with Maine DEP

- Arleen O'Donnell and Dawn Gallagher reported on pilot projects they have been involved in that aligns the RCRA program with goals under the national Resource Conservation Challenge. The pilot projects expand the focus of state RCRA programs to concentrate on “upstream” prevention of waste and chemical hazards rather than “downstream” management.
- Maine has pursued a sector based program working with the dental sector on the installation of amalgam separators.
- Ira Leighton with EPA Region 1 and Matt Hale with OSWER both expressed support for this initiative.
- Ron asked for an update on this program at the ECOS 2006 Spring Meeting.
- States interested in getting involved in the program or learning more about the pilot projects can contact Dawn Gallagher.

ASTSWMO Strategic Plan – Terrence Gray, Rhode Island DEM and ASTSWMO Vice President

- Terry Gray reported on the work ASTSWMO has been doing this year to update their strategic plan.
- He discussed the strategic directions that ASTSWMO is looking in: exploring strategic partnerships, improving communications, and emphasizing transferability.
- He also discussed six key focus areas: resources, information sharing, environmental sustainability, program integration and efficiency, program performance measures, and partnerships.
- ASTSWMO hopes to finalize their strategic plan in October and then work on its implementation.

Meth Lab Remediation Discussion – facilitated by Ron Hammerschmidt

- Participants were given a partial list of state meth lab cleanup contacts and asked to submit a contact for their state if they had not already done so.
- Participants discussed what how they had been addressing meth lab remediation issues in their states. Some highlights include:
 - Colorado adopted clean up standards earlier this year which are posted on their website
 - Utah has a contractor certification program for meth lab cleanup
 - Kansas has taken a non-monitoring approach to the cleanup requiring the removal of all porous surfaces in labs

- Arkansas has been in contact with Kansas on meth lab cleanups and has created a workgroup to look at the issue.
- Given the interest in the topic, Ron would like to keep this on the agenda for the Waste Committee.

Product Stewardship Resolution – Ron Hammerschmidt

- Ron asked for the states to review the resolution and send in comments within the next 30 days to Carolyn Hanson (chanson@sso.org). After the comment period, a vote on the resolution will be held.

Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Update – Stephen Davis, Maine DEP

- Stephen Davis gave short update on Maine's NRD activities which include working on a four-party MOU between the various state trustees in Maine and embracing the idea of applying the NRD process to RCRA sites.
- Stephen mentioned two upcoming NOAA meetings where states can learn more about lessons learned and what is currently happening related to NRD. One meeting is being held in Chicago in the fall of 2005 and another is being planned for the late spring of 2006 in New England.
- Stephen also mentioned that a new national policy advisory group had been set up by the Department of the Interior.

EPA's E-Waste Initiatives - Matt Hale, EPA OSW

- Ron mentioned that Kansas had completed a pilot project on e-waste and that information about this project is available on their website.
- Matt said that while hearings have been held on Capitol Hill this summer related to e-waste that the administration had no official policy on whether legislation was needed on this issue.
- He described numerous projects and initiatives that EPA and the federal government are involved in related to e-waste including:
 - The Federal Electronics Challenge
 - The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool
 - Plug-In to e-Cycling Pilot Projects
 - Safe Recycling and recycler certification system development
 - Development of a central data repository on e-waste
 - Looking at the use of third party organizations as alternative to state-run e-waste recycling programs
- Matt also mentioned that both the Department of Commerce and the GAO were scheduled to publish reports related to e-waste this fall.

UST Provisions of Energy Bill

- Waste Committee would like to follow up on the effects of the UST provisions in the Energy Bill. Ron agreed to get information from ASTSWMO and to possibly hold a conference call on the topic later this fall.