

Summary of Cross Media Committee Meeting at the ECOS 2007 Spring Meeting

At the recent ECOS meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, the Cross Media Committee voted to renew two resolutions. One, Resolution 01-6 State Access to Confidential Business Information under TSCA, was renewed without revisions. The other, Resolution 04-4 Promotion of Pollution Prevention in Partnerships, was renewed with revisions asking EPA to maintain P2 funding at its FY06 level and to incorporate pollution prevention into each of its strategic goals.

Jill Cooper, CO, and David Littell, ME, briefed the Committee on two innovative programs: Colorado's Environmental Results Program (ERP) for waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) and Maine's innovative TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for stormwater discharges.

Jill told the committee that the major WWTPs in Colorado have achieved a 90 percent compliance rate, but their smaller facilities have not performed as well. Colorado's ERP allows their major WWTPs to self-certify and qualify for reduced frequency of inspections (20 percent a year). The program is intended to free up state resources to concentrate on increasing compliance at smaller WWTPs.

David told the committee that Maine has started to use percent impervious cover as a surrogate measure of water quality for the state's TMDL program. He explained that Maine is using percent impervious cover on a watershed basis and that it is recommended only in small watersheds. The goal is 12 percent impervious cover. Their strategy is to implement best management practices to reduce the effects of impervious cover, not to remove pavement.

The Committee approved sending a letter to Steve Johnson, U.S. EPA administrator, and Ken Legler, chair of the National Compliance Advisory Panel (NCAP), requesting a dialog to develop a comprehensive small business environmental assistance initiative for the states. Talks would include representatives from ECOS' Cross-Media Committee, the National Steering Committee of State Small Business Environmental Assistance and Ombudsman Programs, NCAP, and U.S. EPA.

The Committee approved creating the ECOS/Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission Forum with John Corra, director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Bill Sydow, director of the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, as co-chairs. Bill is Nebraska's representative to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC). He told the Committee that ECOS and the IOGCC have the following issues in common: carbon dioxide sequestration; ground water, waste, and air issues; and underground injection controls.

In other announcements, Arleen told the Committee that there would be an invitational mercury workshop May 2 through 4 in Madison, Wisconsin, and Mark McDermid announced a Multi-State Working Group (MSWG) meeting June 17 through June 21, also in Madison. The Committee decided to elect a vice-chair at the next ECOS meeting, set for September 16-18 in Sun Valley, Idaho. (Sealey)