

# **Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

## **January 6, 2010**

Mission Statement: *To enhance communication and the working relationship between the Department and the solid waste management facility owners/operators, through the discussion of issues and the exchange of ideas.*

### **Committee members in attendance:**

Chairwoman, Sherrel Rhys – Lewis & Clark County  
Max Bauer - Allied Waste Systems  
Mark Nelson - Lake County  
Barb Butler – City of Billings  
Rick Thompson – DEQ Solid Waste Program

### **Others in attendance:**

Barry Damschen - Barry Damschen Consulting  
Robert Church – Great West Engineering  
Pat Crowley – Crowley Consultants  
David Seeberger – Allied Waste Systems  
Bonnie Rouse – DEQ EPP/ LGR  
Christine Weaver – DEQ Water Protection  
Vickie Walsh – DEQ ARMB  
Elois Johnson – DEQ Legal  
Ed Thamke - DEQ WUTMB  
Norm Mullen – DEQ Legal Department  
Darrell Stankey – DEQ Solid Waste Program  
MaryLouise Hendrickson - DEQ Solid Waste Program

**Call to Order:** Sherrel Rhys at 1:37 pm, Helena, Montana.

**Minutes from the previous meeting were postponed until the next meeting.**

### **Solid Waste Issues From Previous Meeting:**

#### **- SW Rules Update -**

Rick Thompson reported the rules have gone to legal for legal review and formatting. They are tentatively scheduled for filing on January 19, 2010. This is the final version. Rick said that he would send out a notice to the SWAC members when the rules are filed.

#### **Local Government Recycling (LGR) Section (Formerly P2) Update – Bonnie Rouse**

Bonnie explained that the Local Government and Recycling Section was split into two different sections and Brian Spangler has the Renewable Energy Program which includes all of the biomass related projects. She would continue as the action supervisor for the Local Government Section.

### **-Section activities-**

Bonnie briefly reported on several of the projects her group was currently involved with. - The deconstruction of an old mill in Alberton is ongoing. This is being done in collaboration with MDT Missoula

- Ongoing fly ash and glass projects.
- Dusti Johnson has worked with the Towns of Eureka and Conrad to set up permanent recycling plants. The plant in Conrad is now also accepting paper products in addition to cans.
- Costco has approached the LGR section to help them go Green statewide.
- The annual recycling survey has been sent out.
- A process document on the thermostat legislation is being developed – illegal to throw away thermostats.
- E-waste events are being scheduled by various communities for the spring and summer months. Sandra Boggs should be contacted for the schedule of events.
- Construction and Demolition Wastes training session has been scheduled for mid-April.

### **-Grant Projects Related to Solid Waste Issues-**

- Recycling Infrastructure Grant application period recently closed. Forty six applications were received. Individual grants up to \$25,000 will be awarded. The total grant available is \$300,000.
- Energy Efficiency Block Grants – local governments can apply. A strong environmental questionnaire is included with the application for the block grants.
- Appliance rebate program should start mid April – The program is sponsored by Northwestern Energy, and a rebate is being given to purchasers of new refrigerators, dishwashers, and washing machines that are energy star rated. Northwestern Energy is planning on additional rebates in the future.

Mark Nelson commented that Bonneville Power has a similar program. Barry Damschen asked if there was a monetary limit for the rebate program. Bonnie thought it was about \$1.2 million. Bonnie expected the program to last as long as funds are available.

### **New Agenda Items**

#### **- Proposal to Adjust Montana's Air Quality Permitting Threshold to Match EPA's Proposed Greenhouse Gas Permitting Thresholds - Chuck Homer, Vicki Walsh (Air Resources Bureau).**

Vicki Walsh spoke about the rule making activities that are happening at the federal level. She explained that congress is not in the process of making new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) legislation. However, GHG will become a regulated pollutant if, or when the EPA rule goes final.

Vickie relayed that she worked with Rick Thompson to gather data on GHG emissions from Montana landfills. She explained that if the GHG rules are triggered on the national level it is triggered on the state level. The department is therefore proposing before the Board of Environmental Review to raise the state's thresholds or our trigger levels of greenhouse gases to match the proposed federal levels. If the federal rules somehow become null and void, the state rules will follow suite.

The department's timing for rules making will allow for the Air Program to react to the federal timelines and rules. Preliminary estimates show that most landfills will hit the 25,000 tons per year (tpy) GHG emission level and will be required to have the Montana Air Quality permit and the Title V permit. Without the proposed rule change, a permit would be required anytime

changes are made to landfills that would increase their GHG emission levels. With the proposed rule change, landfills could make changes up to 50,000 tpy level and not trigger the requirement for a new license. Facilities would also have one year to submit an application.

Vicki's presentation was followed by several questions from the committee and the audience. The questions asked, or the comments made included:

- Will most of the Montana landfills exceed the threshold levels?
- If the GHG Rule at the Federal level landfill portion doesn't require a permit, why does the state require a permit?
- What will it cost the landfills for an annual permit?
- Green House Gas inventory reporting started January 1. Does that mean I need to be collecting data?
- How will permitting and collecting the \$500 from the landfills impact the GHG emissions?
- What will be the annual renewal fee cost? - Is there opposition to the raising of the threshold limits?
- Was there any ability to pick what you put in for variables in the model use estimate GHG from landfills?
- Would compost facilities be impacted by the proposed rule?

**- Discussion of Storm Water Authorizations - Christine Weaver  
(Ground Water Protection Bureau).**

Christine Weaver gave a general overview of the storm water permitting process conducted by Water Protection Bureau. She handed out a copy of the application, a copy of the general permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity, and a list of those facilities that are permitted for the SIC. She also referenced a website that everyone can review. She told everyone to contact her if they have questions.

Christine's presentation was followed by several questions from the committee and the audience. The questions asked, or the comments made included:

- Why would a discharge be necessary at landfills that are designed with storm water ponds that capture all surface water run-off?
- What would happen if the designed event for a facility is exceeded?
- Who would be impacted by a remote landfill if the design event is exceeded in a storm water pond i.e. there are no receiving waters in the proximity of the facility?

**- Solid Waste Fees - Ed Thamke**

Ed Thamke went over prepared slides which explained where the Solid Waste Fees goes....Mark Nelson requested a copy of the slides being sent to the members.

**Agenda Items For Next Meeting:**

SW Rules  
GHG Rule update  
Training updates

Meeting dates: April 7, 2010; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

July 7, 2010; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

October 6, 2010; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

S.W.A.C. will meet again on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm in the Director's Conference Room 111.

**Adjourn: 3:30 pm**