

WEPSI Policy/Regulations Subgroup: Meeting summary
3/19/02, 1:15 – 3:00

Attendees:

Doug Smith,	Sony
Lori Stole,	WEPSI
Shirli Axelrod,	City of Seattle
Betty Patton,	WEPSI
Scott Klag,	Metro
Craig Lorch,	Total Reclaim

NEPSI: Lori summarized the previous week's meeting of the NEPSI regulatory group. George Lundberg announced that he is unable to lead this subgroup and a new leader was not finalized. Their focus currently is environmentally sound management and exports. For now they are working on some form of performance standards. Lori's current WEPSI project to summarize some existing systems will be passed on to them.

Lori agreed to send NEPSI's regulation summary to this group.

Infrastructure study:

- The group reviewed Betty and Lori's draft infrastructure study.
- We discussed how extensively the businesses should be assessed for environmentally sound practices. It was agreed that for the initial survey it would be sufficient to determine whether an EMS is in place.
- It was clearly expressed that the study needs to include processors, not just collectors and reuse activities. It has been designed to include all those activities.
- It was agreed that the study should cover operations that process material from our study region, even if the businesses themselves are not located in the region.
- It was discussed whether the study will assess whether there are sufficient end markets for CRT glass, and whether that end market scope should extend beyond the known few: 2 U.S. glass-to-glass recycling options or lead smelters. It was agreed to propose the study as outlined, leaving some room for the consultant.

Our group will bring to the ms meeting: Outline of an infrastructure study

Recommended Action plan: Conduct a study along the terms of the outline.

Stakeholder input to request at ms meeting: Are there other infrastructure study areas you would like to see included?

Environmentally sound recycling:

- Doug suggested including details of ISO 14001 in our study, pointing out that it is an established international system. Lori will send some questions to get his input on this system. He said that ISO 14001 doesn't have so much impact in the U.S. because there already were so many controls. It does have a big impact outside the U.S.
- Several suggested that an ESM system does not need to include minimum requirements because there are so many other regulations in the US that apply, including TOSCA –export and import notification process, and RCRA, which doesn't allow hazardous waste export.
- Betty mentioned the recent SWICO presentation. This system doesn't allow material to go outside Switzerland for processing unless there are rules of material handling equal to or better than those in Switzerland.
- E-scrap processing services are being requested by many types of entities. We need to ensure that they follow through on where the stuff ends up.
- Should our action plan include something like the BAN/SVTC pledge?
- Doug suggested that if we put in too many stipulations, the process won't succeed. Most of these products are being made overseas and we probably don't want to take on the purchase of products made there. Overseas recyclers take off the yoke and throw the CRT away. We should be able to send them the yolk without the CRT. There has to be some opportunity to take advantage of the world market.
- A performance standard could include cradle to grave traceability of product, OSHA standard equivalent, don't steal jobs from local businesses.
- Does Unicom try to avoid being a competitor? It was suggested that the Unicom plant is in CA because of the Waste Management facility in Arizona.
- Are there ISO 14001 prisons?
- Is the OSHA argument against prison labor really valid? This discussion should be a general one of worker safety; worker protection should be addressed, not prison labor per se.
- Thoughts on terminology: environmentally sound management (ESM) vs. environmentally sound recycling: the group concluded that ESM is the more inclusive term, including not only recycling but also reuse, etc.

Our subgroup will bring to the ms meeting:

- Summary of some existing certification/rating systems for environmentally sound management (ESM) of this material, including some comparisons, feasibility, effectiveness.
- A pro and con list identifying some of the different opinions on major contentious issues, ie prison labor and export.

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Establish an environmentally sound management standard:
 - Review the summary of available standards prepared by WEPSI. Develop a set of options for ensuring ESM.

- Develop a set of minimum standards that need to be included.
 - Determine whether to recommend an existing system or something else.
 - Assess how to implement the recommended system
2. Create workshops to discuss the contentious topics, such as export and prison labor.

Stakeholder input to request at ms meeting: Request additional points to add to the pro and con lists for specific contentious issues.

Regulations

- The presentation should include NEPSI's agreement to a federal regulation. Heather is leading this NEPSI subgroup.
- We could offer the WEPSI website to track regulatory developments, providing an opportunity to comment on rules, tracking what's happening in other states
- We might want to consider adopting a position of support for the NEPSI outcome. Scott K has such a statement from the mid-west.

Our subgroup will bring to the ms meeting:

Update status of EPA's CRT rule, OR universal waste discussion and Wa planned update to interim policy. Also mention of NEPSI agreement for legislation.

Recommended action plan

- Use WEPSI website for communication and comments as regulations at all levels are developed.
- Adopt a position of support for the NEPSI outcome, if stakeholders agree.

Stakeholder input to request at ms meeting: Ask whether WEPSI should provide a statement about the recent NEPSI agreement for federal legislation.