

Western Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative
Policy and Regulatory System Subgroup: Meeting 3 Summary
October 29, 2001, 12:30 - 2

Members in Attendance:

Lori Stole, WEPSI staff
Jennifer Allen, OECDD
Shirli Axelrod, City of Seattle
John Heffernan, Computers for Kids
Betty Patton, WEPSI staff
Dick Schmidt, City of Portland
Bill Bree, OR DEQ
Heather Bowman, EIA
Scott Klag, Metro

Meeting Summary:

Subgroup Workplan: Lori presented a change to the workplan, that was suggested by project staff. Our group had selected 5 topics at the previous meeting as potential areas to focus on, with the expectation of narrowing these down at this meeting. The change is that we will present a current status report of all 5 of these at the 12/12 multi-stakeholder meeting, then after that we will narrow our focus to 1 or 2 for further study. Subgroup members agreed to this plan.

Today we discussed 2 of our 5 areas: Environmental Regulations that deal with hazardous materials in electronics and Environmentally preferable purchasing policies/regulations.

Regulations on hazardous materials in electronics:

- We will try to capture the top 80% and not worry so much about the many other less involved items, such as OSHA.
- A discussion ensued about definitions. Circuit boards are typically considered to be a product and are therefore largely exempted from regulation. When can CRTs be viewed as a commodity and when should they be labeled as destined for disposal?
- It was suggested that if CRTs are going to a glass-to-glass recycler, they should be considered to be a commodity. However in the NW that's not a real option just now.
- Massachusetts and Florida treat CRTs as a commodity until it's determined where they are going. California , banned CRTs from the landfill, and is now looking at what to do with them.
- By viewing these items as a commodity we can actively promote recycling. We agreed to look at what the elements of this type of forward-looking regulatory structure would be. Our 12/12 presentation of this issue will look at the criteria for designating something as a product or a waste, and who makes that decision. We will give an overview of how other states are choosing to deal with this.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies/Regulations

- Various companies and governments have environmental requirements for their suppliers.
- Disclosure tools include MSDS sheets and TCO or other eco-labels
- It was suggested that the new flat screen technologies need to be addressed too.
- The group decided that we should determine what the status quo is for EPP and present that for the 12/12 presentation. That information could be useful in looking at other regulations, and for other groups. We chose not to further focus on this topic after the status quo presentation

Speaker for 12/12 presentation: Kevin McCarthy from Waste Management was suggested as a speaker. We will target some potential speakers at the next meeting.

Research/Tasks

- Lori will contact Marilyn Goode about her presentation of state situations.
- Lori will update Shirli's chart on hazardous materials regulations, based on today's discussion.
- Heather will provide us with a summary of the types of EPP policies that industry has.
- Shirli will continue the EPP discussion via the listserv
- Jennifer, Dick and Tom: Complete draft of topic scope pages..

Nest meeting:

November 5, 12:30 west coast time. Call in number is 206-553-4602.