# Minutes of U.S. Department of Energy

# Quarterly Teleconference on

# Implementing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Requirements

# November 1, 2007 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (EDT)

**TOPICS**

* Green Products Available through GSA Advantage
* Energy Efficient Products and Rulemaking
* Recycled Fertilizer and Compost
* Blanket Ordering Agreement for Remanufactured Cartridges

**MINUTES**

**Welcome** - Don Lentzen (DOE-HQ Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Lead)

Don reminded sites of the importance of specifying environmentally preferable products in construction designs because not only are Federal agencies required to give preference to designated products but such products contribute to the points needed to achieve the status of LEED certified. By 2015, 15% of each site’s buildings need to be LEED certified. Also important is to gather the data on the designated products purchased so those successes can be reported and rewarded.

DOE Orders 450.1 (environmental) and 430.2 (Energy and Transportation) are being revised. Don reminded the sites to be sure to review and comment on these documents when sites receive notices that the documents are in REVCOM for review.

Barbara Matos shared with Department of Treasury staff tuned in to the teleconference that Treasury is revising their green plan.

**Update from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive** – Juan Lopez (OFEE)

Link to ofee.gov

OFEE is issuing the call for nominations for Closing the Circle awards. The award categories are the same as last year: procurement, operation & maintenance, end of life. The electronics stewardship section has been updated. Nominations can be input to the OFEE award website beginning January 2, 2008.

The Federal Environmental Symposium will be held at the National Institute of Health June 2-4, 2008 in Bethesda, Maryland. A West Federal Environmental Symposium will be held June 10-12, 2008 at Yellowstone National Park in Gardiner, Montana.

DOE facilities have joined the electronics reuse challenge each year. This year’s challenge will begin on National Recycling Day November 15 and will extend to Nov 15, 2008.

**Green Products Available through GSA Advantage** – Jeff Lau and Martin Prince (GSA)

Link to http://www.gsaadvantage.gov

Jeff Lau introduced the GSA Advantage website, said it has over 10,000 environmentally friendly products available, and explained the symbols used to denote the various attributes Federal agencies give preference to. Jeff explained the vendors denote whether products meet specs and determine which symbols to display for each products. GSA does quality assurance checks but cannot possibly check the accuracy of the descriptions for each and every product. This means purchasers are responsible for verifying the products on the GSA website meet the designated requirements. When sites see discrepancies between a product’s description and its actually meeting the requirements, please report that to Martin Prince (Tel. 212-264-7883, E-Mail [martin.prince@gsa.gov](mailto:martin.prince@gsa.gov)).

GSA is working with the ENERGY STAR program to get a direct feed of compliant products so for ENERGY STAR products they do not have to rely on vendor self certification. For questions concerning ENERGY STAR products, DOE staff can call Kate Lewis (EPA) at Tel. 202-343-9024. Kate is working with GSA to install the direct feed.

Sheri Tucker (Paducah Site) quoted from a GSA website: “"When customers buy these products from GSA, they are meeting the procurement requirements established by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Section 6002, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 23.4, and Executive Order 13423.” (<http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/channelView.do?pageTypeId=8207&channelPage=%2Fep%2Fchannel%2FgsaOverview.jsp&channelId=-12973>) Sheri asked GSA when they would be changing that language to reflect reality.

Ralph Wrons (Sandia National Laboratories) shared Sandia’s experience with the GSA Advantage website, noting the website often was out of date with regard to vendors and/or products and that no recycled-content award plaques (wood, plastic, Plexiglas, glass) seem to be available.

Barbara Matos (Department of Treasure) said she had found some recycled content plaques on the GSA Advantage website from Revanna Design made of 100% recycled glass and some from recovered and Forest Steward Council certified wood and would forward the URL to Sandia.

**Energy Efficient Products and Rule Making** – Cyrus Nasseri (FEMP)

Link to <http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement/>

And **www2.eere.energy.gov/femp/about/legislation.html**

The Energy Policy Act 2005, Section 104 on energy efficient products requires all Federal agencies to purchase ENERGY STAR qualified or FEMP designated products. The two exceptions are if the product is not cost effective over the life of the product taking energy cost savings into account or is does not meet performance requirements of the agency. Any requests for exceptions beyond these must be approved by the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters.

A June 19, 2007 Federal Register rule concerning purchase of energy efficient products had a 60-day comment period. DOE received roughly a dozen comments. Those comments are being addressed and DOE will issue the final rule in a couple of months.

DOE is updating DOE Order 430.2d to incorporate the requirements of EPAct 2005, EO13423, and the DOE Secretary’s initiative. The pre-REVCOM process has been completed. DOE received over a hundred comments. The plan is to submit DOE Orders 430.2d and 450.1 for review and comment in REVCOM simultaneously because they are so interrelated. Note: Since the teleconference call, DOE Order 430.2b has been released to REVCOM.

Kaushik Joshi (DOE Argonne Site Office) – Will the efficiency goals in the 430.2d be the same as in EO13423?

Cyrus Nasseri – Yes.

**Recycled Content Fertilizer and New Definition for Recycled Content Compost** – Marlene RedDoor (EPA)

Link to <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>

CPG V is now available, requiring the purchase of recycled content fertilizer ("made from recovered materials") and expanding the definition of recycled content compost ("made from recovered organic materials," which include biosolids and manure). EPA did not specify a percent but many are available with 100% recycled content. Federal agencies need to begin giving preference to these products and reporting their purchases no later than September 15, 2008. The Federal Register notice specifies this requirement be flowed down to sub-contractors should your sites have grounds service contracts.

Virginia Finley (Princeton Plasma Physics Lab) – PPPL is using Espoma fertilizer for acid loving plants (http://www.espoma.com/content.aspx?type=p&intCategoryID=4&id=22) made from dehydrated, feather meal, crab, cocoa meal, corn gluten, cottonseed meal, dried blood, sunflower meal, kelp meal, GreenSand, rock phosphate, sulfate of potash, humates, ammonium sulfate, and triple super phosphate. Does this product meet the requirements of a recycled content fertilizer?

Marlene – yes

Virginia – we can purchase the product at Ace Hardware, Home Depot, etc. We have a beneficial landscaping program and wanted to use an organic fertilizer. We have had at least one year experience and are pleased with it.

Marlene – if any state or local regulations conflict with using certain items, those regulations take precedence over the CPG requirement.

**Blanket Ordering Agreement for Remanufactured Cartridges** – Ron Cone (DOE-HQ)

Link to <http://www.management.energy.gov/1496.htm>

DOE has awarded a blanket purchasing agreement for remanufactured toner cartridges to Veterans Imaging Products (VIP). The agreement includes take back of spent cartridges and provides a monetary credit base according to the type of spent cartridge returned. DOE-wide savings could possibly be over $11 million.

DOE tested the remanufactured cartridges of three manufacturers submitting proposals. Those of VIP were the same or better than OEM cartridges. Purchasing from VIP also has the advantage of meeting the definition of small business/vet owned business

Your site can use the blanket purchasing agreement without competing it, but you need to set it up specifically for your site situation to receive reports on your site’s purchases. The information for the BPA is as follows:

RECYCLED TONER CARTRIDGES  
Contract Number:  DE-AB01-07ME11867  
Expiration Date:  06/30/2008  
Contractor:  Veterans Imaging Products, Inc.  
Type of Business:  Small, Service Disabled, Veteran-Owned  
Contract Specialist:  Arness Harris  
Telephone Number:  (202) 287-1601  
E-Mail Address:  [arness.harris@hq.doe.gov](mailto:arness.harris@hq.doe.gov)

Kaushik Joshi (DOE Argonne Site Office) – How expensive are the cartridges?

Ron Cone – They cost only half the price and are made in Chicago, which should be especially convenient for the Argonne National Laboratory.

Paul Wetherstein (Grand Junction Site) – What is the process for returning spent cartridges?

Ron Cone – Each remanufactured cartridge purchased comes with a mailing label for returning the spent cartridge back to VIP. For each return, your site receives a credit (cost reduction on next purchase). Delivery is guaranteed within 3 business days, and VIP has quality control and service people who will fix any printer for free should one of their cartridges cause the printer to fail. VIP has mastered the killer chip problem, meaning their cartridges work well in printers with chips designed to preclude the use of remanufactured cartridges. Please do not send your spent cartridges to Hewlett Packard. They send the cartridges to recyclers not remanufacturers and Hewlett Packard receives the money for the spent cartridges instead of your site.

Barbara Matos – How can other agencies access this BOA?

Ron Cone - GSA has a sourcing initiative, which was protested, but you should be able to access the DOE BOA through this mechanism. Montrez Nicholon (E-mail montrez.nicholon@gsa.gov , Tel. 703-605-2726) is the contracting officer for GSA setting this up.

**FY2007 Data Call** – Don Lentzen (DOE-HQ) and Brett Goldsmith (GTI Technology Consultants)

Link to <http://www.hss.energy.gov/NuclearSafety/NSEP/p2/dataentry.html>

The EPP data entry system is not presently available due to a security breach and we have no estimated return date. When the website is again available, we may have to obtain new passwords. We will adjust the due date for reporting if the website is not up in a reasonable time for your entries. Please continue your data gathering efforts in preparation for reporting when the website is up.

Ralph Wrons (Sandia National Laboratories) – Will we periodically be updated on the status of the website?

Don Lentzen – You will hear either from me or the DOE IT folks. Feel free to call me with your questions.

**Next teleconference**

* Date – January 24, 2008
* Potential topics for the next teleconference. Please share your ideas. Some suggested so far are
  + Standard for office equipment/Imagers, servers, televisions, cell phones/personal devices
  + EPP Training template for use by DOE Sites
  + Sustainable buildings
  + Tracking tools for capturing EPP data
  + Fleet products
  + Cafeteria products (dishware)
  + Construction: Insulation, paint, roofing sealant, water free urinals
  + Other?

Adjourn

**A few rules for successful teleconferencing**:

* Because we only have a limited number of telephone lines available, all coordinators at one site should participate in the teleconference together on one telephone.
* Keep your phones on mute (if you are using a speakerphone) unless you are speaking.
* Announce your name and affiliation before speaking each time.
* All participants will be asked to introduce yourselves at the start of the teleconference and given the opportunity for comments and questions at the end of the teleconference.

**RESOURCE MATERIALS AND UPDATED EPP INFORMATION**

**NEWLY DESIGNATED RECYCLED PRODUCT AND NEW DEFINITION**

**Begin Purchasing and Collecting Purchasing Data by September 15, 2008**

* Fertilizer
* Compost (new definition)

Web Info: http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products.htm

**NEWLY DESIGNATED BIOBASED PRODUCTS**

**Begin Purchasing and Collecting Purchasing Data by March 16, 2007 except for those with asterisk, which will be effective November 20, 2007**

* Lubricants, penetrating – 68% biobased content by weight
* Diesel fuel additives – 90%
* Urethane roof coating/sealant – 20%
* Hydraulic fluids for mobile equipment (tractors, etc.) – 44%
* \*Bedding, bed linens, towels (User Housing Facilities?) – 12%
* \*Water tank coating/sealant – 59%

Web Info: http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/fb4p/PurchasingBiobased.aspx

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**DOE’s “Environmentally Preferable Products Program” website for access to the reporting site, annual report, teleconference agenda and minutes, and sources of helpful information**

U.S. Department of Energy’s RCRA 6002/Executive Order 13101 home page

http://www.hss.energy.gov/NuclearSafety/NSEP/p2/epp/

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Executive Orders, Regulations, Guidelines**

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

www.ofee.gov

**Buying Green**

FedCenter

http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/buygreen/

**What Is Green Purchasing, Anyway?**

Office of Personnel Management

www.golearn.gov (Free Catalog Section, then Legislatively Mandated...Topics)

**GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION**

**Environmentally Preferable Products**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf>

**Environmentally Preferable Products**

U.S. Department of Energy

http://www.hss.energy.gov/NuclearSafety/NSEP/p2/epp/

**Alternative Fuels and Vehicles**

U.S. Department of Energy

http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact/federal/

**Biobased Products**

U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/public/index.cfm

**Construction**

Whole Building Design Guide -- Technical Guidance for Implementing the

Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and

Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding

<http://www.wbdg.org/sustainablemou>

The Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers with more than

60 model green construction spec sections

<http://fedgreenspecs.wbdg.org>

**Energy/Water Efficient Products**

Federal Energy Management Program

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement/>

**Recycled Products and Suppliers**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/index.htm

**Materials Exchange Products**

(especially chemicals, equipment, and hazardous materials) at other DOE facilities

Log on with user name (erhquser) and password (erhqdoe)

DOE Complex Wide Materials Exchange

http://wastenot.er.doe.gov/DOEmatex/login.asp

**Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Products**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html

**SPECIFIC PRODUCT CATEGORIES**

**Carpet**

**Contract Language and Standards/Guidelines**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Select “carpet” at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/Search.html?Open>

California Carpet Standard

http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/green/epp/standards.pdf

**Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/carpet.htm

**Suppliers Meeting California Carpet Standard**

http://www.green.ca.gov/EPP/carpets.htm

**Cement/Concrete**

**Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/cement.htm

**Cleaning Products**

**Contract Language and Standards/Guidelines**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Select “cleaning supplies” at http://yosemite.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/Search.html?Open

**Suppliers**

Green Seal GS-37 Industrial and Institutional Cleaners

<http://www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/index.cfm#cleaners>

**Construction Materials and Products**

**Contract Language**

U.S. Department of Energy

http://www.hss.energy.gov/nuclearsafety/nsep/p2/epp/epspecs.html , see “Construction Services”

**Paint**

**Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/paint.htm

**Suppliers**

Green Seal GS-11 Architectural Paints

<http://www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/index.cfm#paints>

**Toner Cartridges**

**Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/toner.htm

**DOWNLOAD AND RUN BEES 3.0 SOFTWARE**

BEES (Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability) software helps designers, builders, and product manufacturers identify the environmental and economic performance of

building/construction products. Developed by the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Green Buildings Program with support from the U.S. EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program and the HUD Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) the tool is based on consensus standards and designed to be practical, flexible, and transparent.

**Register for software at** [**http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/software/bees/registration.html**](http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/software/bees/registration.html) **(no cost involved):**

* Fill out registration form
* Click submit

**To install BEES 3.0d:**

* Download bees30dzip.exe, a 14.6 MB self-extracting file. (If prompted during the download, choose to save the file).
* From Windows Explorer, double click on bees30dzip.exe to start the self- extraction process.
* When prompted, choose a folder to unzip the file to and click Unzip.
* Using Windows Explorer, go to the folder you specified in Step 3, double click on Setup.exe and follow the directions on the screen. You will need to choose a folder in which to install BEES 3.0d. This folder must be different from the one you specified in Step 3.

**To run BEES 3.0d:**

* Select Start->Programs->BEES->BEES 3.0d

**OR**

* Go to “My Computer” or wherever you can see all folders and files on your computer. Do not try to open the BEES exe file from a software application, such as Word.
* Go to where you stored the BEES files (probably in a folder labeled “BEES”)
* Open the BEES30d.exe file
* Go to “Analysis” at top of window
* Go to “Define Parameters”