

U.S. Department of Energy
Quarterly Teleconference on Greening the Government
through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition
RCRA 6002/Executive Order 13101
June 26, 2003, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (EDT)
Minutes

- **TOPICS**
Biobased hydraulic fluid for elevators
Remanufactured cartridges (ink jet and color)
P-Card purchasing and tracking systems

PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED:

U.S. Department Of Energy Headquarters

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Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Holly Elwood, Terry Grist, Sue Nogas

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Sandia National Laboratory – CA: Laurie Farren

Sandia National Laboratory – NM: Kristin Klossner, Stacy Richardson, Jimmy Romero

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Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory: Sally Arnold, Bob Johnson

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory: Tom McGeachen

Albany Research Center

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Hanford Site: Cecily Lehmann, Doug Duvon, Robert Moore
Hanford Environmental Health Foundation: Lori Beeler
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory: Sandra Cannon, Wanda Couchman, Judi Johannesen,

Naval Reactor Sites

Idaho: Steve Guillette, Michael Lyle
Pittsburg: Ron Sand, Greg Sawl, Toni Denapoli
Schenectady: Steve Theren

Nevada Operations Office: Al Karns

Oakland Operations Office

Laurence Livermore National Laboratory: Kent Wilson

Ohio Field Office: Kimberly Kate

Power Administrations

Western: Frank Armstrong, Gene Iley, David Pearson

TELECONFERENCE

Greeting and introductions – Don Lentzen, DOE-HQ Team Lead, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Update on Office of the Federal Environmental Executive Activities – Kathy Seikel (OFEE)

- Federal Electronics Challenge: Electronics stewardship pilot looking at three stages of life cycle analysis: purchasing, management during use, end of life practices (see www.federalelectronicchallenge.net). Pilot steering committee composed of federal agencies, academia, and NGOs. Full rollout slated for 2004. Fed IT & facility manager coordination.
- Sustainable buildings: Federal green building report out for comment to EO13101 work group. Final due out mid-August.

Update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program Activities – Holly Elwood (EPA)

- Thanks to DOE. Holly thanked Don Lentzen and DOE-HQ for giving a copy of their RCRA tracking software to EPA and thanked Jimmy Romero and Stacy Richardson and DOE's Sandia National Laboratory for teaming with her on a presentation at the Greening Government conference in Philadelphia.
- Biobased Product Rule. EPA does not know when the U.S. Department of Agriculture will finalize it.

- Environmental Management Systems. EPA is presently developing training modules for Environmental Management Systems.
- Greening Janitorial Services in Federal Facilities. On May 28, 2003, the EPA EPP Team hosted an interagency meeting to develop a strategy for greening janitorial services throughout the Federal government. In addition to EPA staff, participants included representatives from the General Services Administration Public Building Services, Department of the Interior, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, and Didlake, Inc., a NISH (formerly the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped) contractor. The goal is to draw upon the knowledge gained from successful green cleaning pilot projects that Agencies and Departments have already accomplished - like DOE's efforts at their Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - and discuss how to go beyond the pilot phase and institutionalize green cleaning products and procedures on a broad scale. We would love to have DOE involvement in this effort. **To find out more and get involved please contact Jim Darr at james.darr@epa.gov.**
- Product Standards. In an effort to take the next step in the EPP program of providing specific guidance to purchasers about environmental preferability, EPA is now moving to put out a Federal Register Notice which would recognize five specific standards that use a life cycle, consensus based approach. In this Federal Register Notice, EPA will recommend to purchasers these five standards to help them meet their mandates under Executive Order 13101 as well as being consistent with their obligations under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) to use non-governmental standards where appropriate. These standards are:
 - ASTM's E2129-01 Standard Practice for Data Collection for Sustainability of Building Products
 - ASTM's E1971-98 Standard Guide for Stewardship for the Cleaning of Commercial and Institutional Buildings
 - Green Seal Environmental Standard for Commercial Adhesives (GS-36)
 - Green Seal Environmental Standard for Cleaning/Degreasing Agents (GS-34)
 - Green Seal Environmental Standard for General Purpose Bathroom and Glass Cleaners Used for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners (GS-37)

The National Sanitation Foundation and Jim Darr (EPA) examined Green Seal's process for developing their consensus standards and determined they followed the accepted ANSI process.

- Product Guides. The EPP Team strives to create the tools that federal purchasers need to buy greener products and services. We have been told again and again that the best tool we could provide is a list of products which we have deemed to be "green," or barring that, a list of characteristics to look for to ensure a product is green. As part of this work, we created a set of short Product Guides covering 1) cleaning products, 2) carpet, 3) electronics, 4) food serviceware 5) meetings and conferences and 6) paper.

These guides walk readers through a discussion of:

- Environmental impact of these products/services - why they might want to buy green versions of these products
- List of environmental attributes to look for to ensure they are buying a green X, Y, or Z product
- Resources to go to for further information about the environmental attributes of these products
- Success stories of one federal purchaser buying a green version of this product

EPA published these guides and then had to pull them back due to industry concerns. EPA has revised their six product guides per industry feedback and are going to be requesting public comment on them soon. During the public comment period, EPA needs federal purchasers to let them know if these guides, as structured, are going to meet our needs, and if not, specifically how the guides need to be changed to do so. EPA will forward the public comment announcement to DOE to share with the DOE Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Coordinators and Green Acquisition Advocates.

Is biobased hydraulic oil available for use in elevators? - Tom McGeachen (Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory)

- PPPL is replacing their entire system of 40-year old workhorse elevators. They have specified biobased hydraulic fluid in their Request for Proposal. The cost of biobased hydraulic oil may add approximately \$3000 per system, but that is cheaper than one day of cleanup of a petroleum-based hydraulic fluid.
- The onus is on the supplier to ensure compatibility of system and biobased hydraulic fluids. The bids are due 7/15/03. Construction will start by 9/15/03. Hydrosafe and Greenoil use the ISO viscosity grade rating, temp, oxidation to maintain warrantee.

The web site for the biobased product Brookhaven National Laboratory is using is:

<http://www.hydrosafe.com/>

for the Hydro Safe Oil Division Inc

Please check it out. The company has all the ISO viscosity grade specifications and the MSDSes available on their web page. It appears to be the best that Tom McGeachen can find with technical information.

The other company that does a good marketing job but lacks technical information is:

<http://www.greenoil-online.com/index.html>

for GREENOCO the Green Oil Company. Tom McGeachen is in the process of verifying their claim about NYC Transit using their product.

- Questions:
 - Sandra Cannon (PNNL): What causes the cost increase?
 - Tom McGeachen (PPPL): Don't know - maybe cost of fluids. \$3000 is just one day of cleanup.
 - Peter Pohlott (BNL): BNL retrofitted bays in auto shop 2 years ago. Plant engineering considered biobased for new elevator system. Safety got involved. No data then with long term studies. Using biobased in lawnmowers and hydraulic trucks and Hydrosafe's biobased product in the auto shop lift.
 - Tom: Hydrosafe has ISO Standard viscosity rating on their website.
 - Peter: Retrofit group found oils will degrade rubber products. Older systems have lots of rubber seals. New systems are using non-rubber seals. In lift, BNL had to replace old system seals. Retrofit cost about \$2500/system.
 - Stacy Richardson (Sandia): We are using Hydrosafe in our garbage truck. We had rubber seal degradation so conducted a study on different seals.

What is the requirement concerning the purchase of cartridges: toner, ink jet, color printer? – Terry Grist, Sue Nogas, Judy Taylor (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

- Background information Dana Arnold shared with us at March 2003 teleconference: *EPA initially looked at designating ink jet cartridges. Issues at that time were trademark violations and the fact that ink jet cartridges operate under pressure and must be filled under pressure. Some remanufactures fill under ambient or the wrong pressure with predictable performance problems resulting. The cartridges were designed for single use, and the head is subject to failure when reused.*
- Terry Grist said at the time EPA designated the toner cartridges, EPA was only thinking about the black ones. However, the designation, as written, would not preclude color cartridges. The designation includes "remanufacturing services" which is meant to include both a takeback program and the purchased of remanufactured cartridges, or just the purchase of remanufactured cartridges. The designation also includes recycled content in the cartridge casings (this may be more applicable to the color cartridges). Even if color cartridges (remanufactured or recycled content casings) are not currently readily available, the designation affords the opportunity for them to be requested and signal the marketplace there is a demand.

Is the trend toward purchasing inkjet and color printers reducing the purchase of remanufactured toner cartridges? How do we sift out ink jet and color cartridge purchases from toner cartridge purchases? – All sites sharing info

- Sandra Cannon (PNNL) welcomed Sue Nogas and Judy Taylor to CPG guidelines team. Although ink jet cartridges are not designated, PNNL has found quality remanufactured ink jet cartridges from
 - Local supplier in Summerville, Oregon - Mirror Images (Tel. 800-320-9993)
 - Nationwide suppliers – Data Products and EcoPrism through Boise Office Products
- Debbie Boggs (NETL): NETL’s ink jet and toner cartridges are collected by one vendor. So far NETL is purchasing 95% toner cartridges and 5% ink jet cartridges.
- Tom McGeachen (PPPL): PPPL bought Curtis Young remanufactured ink jet cartridges, but the performance was not satisfactory: smearing, lasting about ½ as long as virgin inkjet cartridges.
- Sandra: At PNNL, we invite remanufacturers to demo their quality control process and provide samples to test on our printers. We only recommend those that pass on our website (2 local, 3 national). We have the doubters test the samples, both to win over doubters and to critically test the cartridges. We check the number of copies the test cartridge produce against national standards by printing out a test page with “pages printed” count when it is installed and when it is changed out. PNNL has a [“Protocol for Selecting Quality Remanufactured Cartridges.”](#)
- Idaho: Idaho does not purchase remanufactured cartridges. Hewlett Packard has a take back program.
- Sandra: Hewlett Packard recycles such cartridges for scrap rather than using the parts for remanufacturing. It is preferable to send spent cartridges to remanufacturing companies rather than recycling them. Recycling, of course, is preferable to landfilling.

- Teresa Heaton (SPR): Have you been able to purchase satisfactory remanufactured cartridges from “mandatory sources of supply” such as JWOD?
- Sandra: This would be a good topic to investigate and report on at a later meeting.
- Terry (SPR): We’re using a 3rd party for recycling. Several national, one that accepts lots of printer supply parts (drums, etc). Then we’ll try to find remanufactured inkjet cartridges.
- Kent Wilson (LLNL): LLNL is concerned that use of remanufactured inkjet cartridges will void warrantee on printer.
- Sandra: The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive has posted information on that at their Environmentally Preferable Purchasing website (see “Warranties” at <http://www.ofee.gov/gp/gp.htm#content>). PNNL has a letter from Hewlett Packard that states use of a remanufactured cartridge does not void their warranties, but HP does not warranty damage caused by any inkjet cartridges, virgin or remanufactured. The trick is to find high quality remanufactured cartridges, purchase from them, and return spent cartridges to them to feed the loop.
- Kent: The company whose cartridge damages the printer repairs the damage to the printer.
- Sandra: GRC, Ecoprism, Guy Brown/Boise Cascade all print to the national standard, give good quality, warrantee the cartridge and any damage to their printer caused by their cartridge.
- Kent: Are color toner cartridges to be included in our reporting?
- Terry Grist (EPA): Color toner cartridges are to be included but not ink jet cartridges. If your organization cannot differentiate, report both types.

Environmentally preferable purchasing--single website with products from multiple vendors – Stacy Richardson and Jimmy Romero (Sandia National Laboratory)
(see [Sandia Online Purchasing System presentation](#))

- Stacy Richardson and Jimmy Romero walked the teleconference participants through their PowerPoint presentation explaining the online ordering system Sandia has developed.
- Questions:
 - Debbie Boggs (NETL): Does the system tie into the Discus system?
 - Jimmy Romero (Sandia): No
 - Debbie: Are there only green products on the system or all products?
 - Jimmy: Sandia could not find green options for all products. If there is a recycled content product available, then the non-green items are blocked from staff viewing.
 - Stacy Richardson (Sandia): The key to finding recycled content is the sites good search capability, such as “recycled widgets.”
 - Wanda Couchman (PNNL): On the billing info, can the request be split by line to multiple charge codes?
 - Jimmy: No because the products are all low dollar amounts.

- Sandra Cannon (PNNL): IF you have copy paper with recycled content readily available, do you only offer the products with the required recycled content on your system?
- Jimmy & Stacy: yes
- Sandra: So how you capture your CAP (cost, availability, performance exceptions for non-purchase)—during your prescreening?
- Stacy: Yes. We assign exceptions by overall product category, such as for engineering pads because they are not available with recycled content. Not having an adequate selection is not recognized as an exception so, for example, plastic accessories (while virgin versions are available in our system because of limited availability with recycled content) do not qualify as a justified exception.
- Laurie Farren (Sandia-CA): Do you highlight recycled content products on the system in any way to promote their selection by staff?
- Jimmy: No
- Stacy: But they're identified by the word "recycled" and you can search with the term "recycled."

Purchasing and tracking systems for credit card purchases (see PowerPoint file attached to e-mail message) – Holly Elwood (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
(see [EPA E-Procurement presentation](#) and [EPA EPP Product Criteria](#))

- Holly Elwood walked the teleconference participants through a presentation on EPA's online ordering system they are presently developing for green office supplies. They talked with two DOE sites in the course of developing their online system: INEEL and Sandia. The products they include need to meet or exceed CPG and Green Seal requirements. The EPA online system will first be piloted but eventually will be mandatory nationwide for all office product purchasing by EPA. EPA is finding it a challenge to obtain group discounts through GSA Advantage and so GSA Advantage may be losing its market share.
- Questions
 - Sandra Cannon (PNNL): How is EPA handling products where there is not a wide variety, such as the plastic desktop accessories?
 - Holly: EPA has not addressed that yet. EPA's intent is to make sure every product meets or exceeds Green Seal or CPG. Where availability issues exist, EPA may have to list substandard products. Presently EPA is requesting input of suppliers.

Next EPP teleconference date: September 25, 2003

Potential topics for the next teleconference

- Electronics stewardship initiatives
- Direction on how to balance purchasing source requirements (JWOD, HUBs, etc.) and environmental purchasing requirements
- Follow up on PPPL's inserting a biobased hydraulic fluid requirement in their RFP for new elevators
- EPA RCRA 6002 inspection update
- Query concerning DOE purchase of alternative fuel/hybrid vehicles for their fleets
- Life cycle comparisons of products with seeming conflicting environmental qualities, such as recycled and zero VOC paint, solid plastic recycled and chipboard clipboards

Please send a return e-mail message to let us know if you will participate in this teleconference so we are sure to have enough telephone lines available. Where possible, meet with your colleagues at one location so only one telephone line need be used. When responding, please give us your name, organization, and location; for example, Sandra Cannon, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

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 will be polled for final comments just prior to the end of the teleconference.

FY2003 REPORT ON INDICATOR PRODUCTS

- Paper – sanitary tissue
- Non-Paper Office - toner cartridges
- Construction - concrete
- Landscaping - landscaping timbers
- Park and Recreation - benches and picnic tables
- Transportation - traffic barricades
- Vehicular - re-refined oil
- Miscellaneous - signage

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

DOE’s “Buying Recycled and 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
www.eh.doe.gov/p2 (select “Environmentally Preferable Products Program”)

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Executive Orders, Regulations, Guidelines

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
www.ofee.gov

GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Database of product information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm>

Energy Efficient Products

Federal Energy Management Program
<http://www.eren.doe.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>

Used Products - Materials Exchange

(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/index.html>

SPECIFIC PRODUCT CATEGORIES

Carpet

Contract Language and Standards/Guidelines

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Select “carpet” at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oppt/epstand2.nsf/Pages/Search.html?Open>

Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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

Suppliers

Green Seal “Choose Green Report: Carpet”

http://www.greenseal.org/cgrs/Carpet_CGR.pdf

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 “concrete” at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oppt/epstand2.nsf/Pages/Search.html?Open>

Decision Making Wizard for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/cleaners/select/>

Specifications and Process Used at PNNL

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

<http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/custodialproducts/>

Suppliers

Green Seal “Choose Green Report: Industrial and Institutional Cleaners”

http://www.greenseal.org/cgrs/CGR_I&I_cleaners.pdf

Construction Materials and Products

Contract Language

U.S. Department of Energy

<http://www.pnl.gov/doesustainabledesign/> , see “Letters of Intent, Construction Contracts”

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 “Choose Green Report: Architectural Paints”

http://www.greenseal.org/cgrs/CGR_Paints.pdf

Toner Cartridges

Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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

Supplier Examples of Quality Remanufactured Cartridges

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/ap_toner.html