

U.S. Department of Energy
Quarterly Teleconference on Greening the Government
through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition
RCRA 6002/Executive Order 13101
December 12, 2002, 1 - 2:30 p.m. (EDT)

TOPICS

- ☐ **Buy Bio Update**
- ☐ **Two Major Obstacles Identified in FY2002 Survey and Sources for Solutions**

PARTICIPANTS:

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXECUTIVE

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL): Jane Beck
Pantex Plant: Julie Marlar
Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) – NM: Kristin, Klossner, Stacy Richardson

CHICAGO OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Ames Laboratory: Dan Kayser
Argonne National Laboratory: Tom Snyder
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory: Tom McGeachen

FOSSIL ENERGY:

National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL): Bruce Webster
Strategic Petroleum Reserves: Terry Heaton

HEADQUARTERS (HQ): Don Lentzen (EH), Mary Anderson (EH), Richard Langston (ME), Mark Decot (EE)

Yucca Mountain Characterization Project: Lee Bishop, Delane Fitzpatrick-Maul

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL): David Janke, Dick Jansen, Heather Merrill

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Schenectady: A.R. Seepo

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Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL): David Chen, Li Yang Chang
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL): Kent Wilson

OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Oak Ridge Association University: Erskine Gray
Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL): David Wasserman
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF): Linda Even
Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12): Anne Ostergaard

OHIO FIELD OFFICE:

Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP): Peter Yerace
West Valley Demonstration Project: Cathy Bohan

RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE: Oscar Holgado (EM), Geneva Ellis-Balone (EM)

Hanford Site: Joe Coenenberg, Doug DuVon, John Fleming, Kathy Hinkelman, Bob Moore, Paul Von der Mehden
Hanford Environmental Health Foundation: Lori Beeler
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL): Sandra Cannon (EO 13101 Coordinator), Eric Damberg (Pollution Prevention Coordinator), Judi Johannesen (Waste Minimization and Recycling Coordinator)

ROCKY FLATS OPERATIONS OFFICE: Tamar Krantz**Introduction - Don Lentzen, DOE-HQ EO 13101 Manager**

During the call-in time, Don asked Dana Arnold to give an update on the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive activities. He reminded everyone of the December 31 deadline for submitting data for the RCRA 6002/EO13101 report.

Update on Buy Bio – Mark Decot (Office of the Biomass Program) and Tom Snyder (Argonne National Laboratory)

Tom Snyder said the U.S. Department of Agriculture was to publish Buy Bio guidelines in November 2002. They should be out in January 2003. Six months after the guidelines are published USDA will publish the list of designated biobased products. Six months after the list is published, agencies are to have their Buy Bio Programs in place. Mark highlighted the connection between buying biobased products and national security because it reduces the nation's reliance on foreign oil. The way to make biorefineries cost effective is to use them for biobased fuel, power, and products. DOE should lead by example in purchasing biobased products. Tom is assembling a list of vendors willing to send out sample products to key end users. They will notify us when the product kits are available for testing. Internet: <http://usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/categories.asp>

Question from Tom McGeachen (PPPL): Has anyone had experience with biobased hydraulic fluids in freight elevators?

Kent Wilson (LLNL) heard Brookhaven National Laboratory retrofitted their garbage trucks to use hydraulic oil

Results of DOE-HQ questionnaire: “Help Obliterate Obstacles to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing” – Don Lentzen

When the DOE sites submit their annual RCRA/EO13101 reports each year, they are asked to identify the reasons why they were not able to purchase a specific product with recycled content. These reasons identify some obstacles, but it is not clear whether the obstacles are truly logistical (products not

available, for example) or systemic (not enough funding to seek the required products, for example). Using the obstacles identified in the FY2001 annual report, DOE developed a questionnaire to identify the root problems to know where to most effectively focus our problem solving efforts in FY2003.

The main two obstacles identified by the sites responding to the questionnaire are:

- *Many of the purchases being made by sub-contractors, such as for construction projects and custodial work*
- *Finding the designated products*

Main obstacle: flow down of RCRA 6002/EO13101 in sub-contracts for construction, custodial products/services, etc. – Richard Langston (Office of Procurement and Financial Assistance Policy)

Richard Langston offered an update on the rulemaking presently in process which provides for flowdown of the Affirmative Procurement Program clause to M&O subcontracts. The draft final rule is in the final stages of Department clearance before release to the Federal Register. The rule provides for flowdown of the Affirmative Procurement Program clause to subcontracts under management contracts if the subcontract includes the acquisition of items designated in EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines that Federal agencies and their contractors are to procure with recovered/recycled content pursuant to 40 CFR 247. The clause prescription speaks of subcontracting a significant portion of the operation of the Government facility which includes the acquisition of items designated in EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines. The "significant portion" is not intended to imply that the subcontract has to be of an especially great dollar amount but rather that we not attempt to impose the reporting requirements of the clause to smaller insignificant subcontract efforts. The clause also provides that where the amount of subcontract purchases of EPA designated items is known, the prime contractor need not require separate reporting but can include those subcontract amounts in its own report. It provides in such instances that the subcontractor acquire such products with recovered/recycled content unless it notifies the prime contractor that it is unable to acquire the products i) competitively within a reasonable time, ii) at a reasonable cost, or iii) within reasonable performance requirements. While we want to clearly promote the greatest possible use of recycled content products we do not want to impose unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements. Examples of such subcontract opportunities include operation of the facility supply function, construction or remodeling at the facility, or maintenance of the facility motor vehicle fleet.

Question from Terry Heaton (Strategic Petroleum Reserves): How far down does the requirement flow?

Richard Langston: It flows down to subcontracts if acquisition of designated items is involved and if it affects a significant portion of the operation of the Government facility.

Oscar Holgado (DOE-RL): what can DOE sites do about contracts lacking a pollution prevention mandate? Contractors are resisting meeting any requirements not included in their contract with DOE.

Examples of DOE sites with flowdown clauses in their sub-contracts – Kristin Klossner and Stacy Richardson (Sandia National Laboratory)

Kristin explained Sandia's Legal Department, Project Managers, Construction Inspectors, etc. resisted placing the requirement to purchase designated products in their sub-contracts, saying it would increase the cost, but the new legal person and their Procurement Department agrees with flowing the RCRA 6002/EO13101 requirement down in sub-contracts, and to date prices have not increased. The contract language Sandia includes is "Per DEAR 970.5204-39 Acquisition and Use of Environmentally Preferable Products and Services – Contractor shall prepare and submit an Affirmative Procurement Report (incorporated by Reference) with each monthly invoice. Failure to submit an Affirmative Procurement Report will result in a delay of payment. Please note that this report requires reporting on materials

purchased by subcontractors as well as the Offeror.” Link here to see a copy of the form Sandia has construction sub-contractors fill out. [TC, please link “form” to the ap-contract-form-Sandia.doc file.]

Tom McGeachen (PPPL) noted that the LEED criteria (Green Building Council nationally accepted standard for construction) specifically refer to the purchase of recycled products although LEED and the CPG have different roots.

Sandra Cannon (PNNL) noted that template language for construction contracts is available on the DOE Sustainable Design website (<http://www.pnl.gov/doesustainabledesign/>), see “Letters of Intent, Construction Contracts”)

Another obstacle: finding products - industrial drums, 3-ring binders (cost), office recycling containers – Sandra Cannon (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

In the survey, another major obstacle several sites cited is finding some of the designated products. The top 9 products sought by DOE are those DOE purchased over \$1M worth but scored lower than 90%. We discussed concrete and carpet during the May 2002 teleconference. Today we tackle some more of the nine problem products: industrial drums, 3-ring binders, and office recycling containers.

Industrial steel drums automatically contain recycled steel so 16% easy to achieve. PNNL’s poison inhalation hazard drums contain a minimum of 25% recycled steel. Is anyone having problems finding the 30% plastic (polyethylene) drums? No one responded. The main problem seems to be the requirement to purchase fiber drums with 100% recycled content.

Industrial fiber drums – Anne Ostergaard (Y-12 National Security Complex) and all DOE sites sharing information

The Y-12 National Security Complex reviewed EPA's homepage and found the one vendor listed does not currently produce 100% recycled content fiber drums. The tops and bottoms of their fiber drums contain recycled content but not the sides. To purchase these Sonoco/Greif drums with recycled content in at least the tops and bottoms, contact Katie Maupin (Tel. 866-422-6356).

3-ring binders – Tamar Krantz (Rocky Flats Operations Office), Delane Fitzpatrick-Maul (Yucca Mountain Characterization Project)

Tamar shared the Rocky Flats experience of their not finding 3-ring binders at reasonable prices for all spine sizes. When the price was reasonable, they specified recycled 3-ring binders in their new on-line catalog from which their Purchase Card holders must purchase. The prices their vendor, Faison, offered for 3-ring binders are below. The recycled and non-recycled binders had the same prices except for one of the 1-inch spine binders.

<u>Order No.</u>		<u>not recycled</u>	<u>recycled</u>
SPR 03301	3-ring, black, 1"	\$0.67	\$1.12
SPR 03501	3-ring, black, 2"	\$1.37	\$1.37
SPR 03602	3-ring, black, 3"	\$2.53	\$2.53
WLJ79911	3-ring, black, 1"	\$1.67	\$1.67
WLJ79921	3-ring, black, 1"	\$2.81	\$2.81
WLJ79931	3-ring, black, 1"	\$3.65	\$3.65

Delane shared the Yucca Mountain system to reuse archival binders. During FY-2000 YMP Management & Operations Office Services Department initiated a test program intended to diminish the number of binders that were purchased by YMP. Up to that time, binders in use tended to "bleed through" and

become discolored. They were consequently donated to public schools or disposed. A new line of binders was identified, in which archival-grade plastic was used. Ink and dye transfer was eliminated allowing the binders to be reused. Although, the archival grade binders cost more than the lesser quality units, their increased life cycle allows for multiple reuses. Consequently, YMP was able to realize a savings of \$49,454.60 between FY-2000 and FY-2001, and the difference was even greater when compared to FY-1999 during which the YMP spent \$88,293.00 on binders--a difference of \$61,316.75 (65% and 69% respectively). To ensure reuse of binders, a requirement instituted during FY-2001 specifies that the reproduction services department must first use recovered binders for document reproduction jobs before using new ones. Dedicated cabinets/collection points are provided in each building for used binders, allowing easy reuse and redistribution throughout the Project.

Dana Arnold (OFEE) noted that 3-ring recycled binders from GSA Advantage (made by Industries for the Blind) are less expensive than virgin binders.

Stacy Richardson (Sandia) asked what type of 3-ring binder we are discussing

Tamar Krantz said Rocky Flats' are black. Sandra Cannon noted that the most popular is usually white with a clear plastic sleeve on the front cover.

Office recycling containers – Judi Johannesen (PNNL)

Judi shared PNNL's supplier information for recycled desktide recycling containers:

Midpoint International, Howard Solo, Tel. 888-646-4246

Internet: <http://www.midpoint-int.com/>

Specs: blue 14 qt, 25% post consumer, \$4.95 each/100, no. T-7701

Sources for finding products on the Internet

- Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines – Terry Grist (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, grist.terry@epa.gov)
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/index.htm>
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Database – Holly Elwood (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, elwood.holly@epa.gov)
<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm>
- Sustainable Environmental Stewardship – Dana Arnold (Office of the Federal Environmental Executive)
www.ofee.gov

Sandra Cannon said Terry Grist was not available to walk us through the CPG website so she gave a brief demo of how to find suppliers of fiber drums.

Holly Elwood introduced us to the EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing website and in particular the location where the specifications and contract language are located. The EPP website includes local, state, and federal specifications as well as some from foreign countries. The website will soon have a new tool with information on construction materials. As soon as the website is ready for public consumption, EPA will advertise its availability.

Dana Arnold introduced us to the recently updated OFEE website, which serves as a portal to key websites for environmentally preferable purchasing. Dana announced the newly formed ListServe and invited everyone to join. She then walked us through the key areas of the website.

Next Teleconference Date: March 27, 2003, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)

Potential Topics for Next Teleconference

- Tom McGeechen (PPPL) suggested discussing remanufactured ink jet cartridges since more PPPL staff are purchasing them than toner cartridges.
- Other topics suggested at previous teleconferences:
 - Results of survey on obstacles to purchasing environmentally preferable products
 - Biobased products
 - How to readily find recycled, biobased, energy/water efficient products and the suppliers of those products in the GSA system
 - Life cycle comparisons of products with seeming conflicting environmental qualities, such as recycled and zero VOC paint, solid plastic recycled and chipboard clipboards,
 - Products DOE spends the most money on but is having problems purchasing: binders, industrial drums, recycling and trash containers (carpet and concrete already discussed during May teleconference)
 - Exceptions to purchasing requirements
 - Other products: carpet cushion, mats, plastic lumber

Adjourn

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 "Programs, Initiatives, & Reporting," then "Buying Green")

GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Database of product information

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

Biobased Products

U.S. Department of Agriculture
<http://usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/>

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

<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/DisplayAisle.html?Open&Hardware%20Store&Carpet>

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

<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/DisplayAisle.html?Open&Hardware%20Store&Cleaning%20supplies%20and%20equipment>

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