

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Summary
May 1, 2009**

Participants		
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1. Welcome and introductions.
Note: American Society of Civil Engineers Infrastructure Report Card; Solid Waste Industry received the highest grade.
<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

Overview of agenda.

Handouts:

- Agenda
- April 2009 Solid Waste Update
- SWAC Legislation Tracking Table
- Michigan Solid Waste Policy

2. Approve draft meeting summary:

The March 6, 2009, meeting summary was approved. The DEQ apologized for neglecting to post the draft summary in advance on the SWAC's Web page.

3. Standing agenda items:

- Fees/Budget – Executive Orders expected next week. Everything is on the table for FY09. For FY2010, we anticipate general funds to be replaced with funds from the Perpetual Care Account of the Solid Waste Management Fund. The ongoing budget outlook is not good. To be better prepared to respond to difficult budget cutting scenarios, the WHMD is beginning to evaluate all aspects of the program for relative importance, resource demand, and effectiveness.
- Legislative Tracking Table – HB4458 & 4459 Medical Waste passed out of the House yesterday.
- Planning Lite – no sponsor yet and no copies of any draft bill(s) to share yet.
- Mercury Disposal Bills – industry supported the landfill ban but asked that the mercury products be banned at curbside as well (at generator). The idea to ban at landfill but not ban from waste stream is philosophically a problem for industry; if banned at both places, everyone is responsible and working together. The current prohibitions can be problematic at the local program level as well when residents aren't prohibited by law from disposing of prohibited items at the curb. There is also concern with what *de minimis* really means in terms of disposal bans. Additionally, new bans can be problematic for existing hauling contracts, which can extend for up to 15 years. The landfill industry expressed concern about the inability to work cooperatively with the DEQ on proposed amendments to the mercury bills that would add generator responsibilities. It was agreed to devote time at the next meeting to discuss the landfill prohibitions in general and the responsibilities and obligations of generators.
- Deposit Bills – deposit on PET bottles (easy to recycle). General discussion regarding deposits; they should be put on things we don't want in landfills, like CFL's; creating a supply of recyclable material can promote the development of industry to collect and use it; these programs cost money; alternatives to landfill disposal have to exist before an item is banned; and a reminder that the Solid Waste Policy statement on bans takes these issues into consideration.

- An update was provided on the proposed compost and inert rules (additional information maintained for the rules committee on the DEQ's Solid Waste Web page). There was some discussion regarding concerns about integrating Part 201 cleanup criteria into the Part 115 rules while the Part 201 program redesign is underway.

An update was also provided on the separate effort to promulgate Part 115 and Part 55 rules to ban the open burning of household waste within an implementable timeframe.

4. Other updates:

- Operational Memos. Gen 13, the operational memo for the use of yard clippings at landfills, is being revised consistent with the updated alternate daily cover operational memo 115-10.
- Coal Ash. The U.S. EPA is still evaluating information received from industry and the states, and has not made a decision on whether or how to regulate coal ash. The DEQ has not identified any critical engineering issues at coal ash surface impoundments in Michigan.

5. Solid Waste Program Activities Prioritization – The DEQ facilitated an exercise in which the committee members were asked to identify and prioritize the activities for the Solid Waste Program. This is an initial step that is being undertaken with management and staff as well, and will likely be refined further as the DEQ works with stakeholders to allocate diminishing resources to the most important activities. The results of the exercise are reflected in the table below:

Solid Waste Activities	Votes
Permits/Licenses	70
Solid Waste Planning	49
Technical Reviews (Construction certs, new cells, hydro reviews, HMP, etc.)	44
Recycling/Composting (tech assistance)	30
Enforcement (escalated)	27
Inspections (compliance)	26
Compliant response	21
Waste Approvals (Beneficial reuse, inert designations, etc.)	21
Outreach (web, Env. Ed, FAQ's, etc.)	20
SWAC	20
Policy & Rule Development	15
Internal/External Committees	13
RAPs	10
Yard Clippings/Compost Registrations	7
Legislative Reports (Annual Solid Waste Report, Activities Report, etc.)	5
Financial Assurance Reviews	3
SWAP Grants	3
Technical Support for other Divisions	2
Solid Waste Surcharge Collection	0

The importance of collecting the solid waste surcharge was recognized, but it was suggested that the DEQ should not be doing it; perhaps the Department of Treasury should.

A future meeting agenda item will include discussion of what isn't being done but should be done to further the Solid Waste Policy.

6. Solid Waste Policy Discussion Topics:
 - Utilization Measurement – Try to get RFP's (Request for Proposals) out in the next week. Send to committee and they can forward. It might take a couple of weeks for response.
 - Matrix – Work in progress.
 - Presentation – Seeking funding. Done except for cost estimate from RFP.

7. Discussion on progress toward achieving the objectives and goals of the Solid Waste Policy. The SWAC discussed the importance of identifying what will be counted as utilization and how it will be measured. For example, how will energy recovery be measured in tons of material utilized. It was suggested that engineering data may be useful in developing a utilization rate in those circumstances. The SWAC discussed methods for tracking what is being done to implementing the Policy. A DRAFT table was reviewed. Ideas for improving table: smaller font; break into sections by area; links in implementation/status areas; headings on every page; numbering and date (last updated) and page numbers; dates next to entry; person heading up; planned future actions; deadlines/target dates. It was suggested that the table could be used to inform legislative staff.

8. Next Meeting:
Next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2009. Future meeting dates for FY09 are: September 11.