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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



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DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Senate Natural Resources Committee Members
House Natural Resources Committee Members

FROM: C. Heidi Grether, Director *CHG*

DATE: November 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Report on the Effectiveness of Part 169 in Encouraging the Reuse
and Safe Storage of Scrap Tires (Triennial Report)

In accordance with Section 16911(2) of Part 169, Scrap Tires, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required to report every three years to the Legislature on the effectiveness of Part 169 regarding the reuse and safe storage of scrap tires. The Michigan Scrap Tire Program is a nationally-recognized effort that combines cleanup and market development grants with effective compliance and enforcement. Since the program was first appropriated funding in 1993, more than \$26 million has been provided through grants to remove and properly dispose of nearly 30 million passenger tire equivalents.

If you need further information, please contact Jack Schinderle, Director, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division, at 517-284-6852; or you may contact me at 517-284-6700.

cc: Ellen Jeffries, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
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Department of Environmental Quality Michigan's Scrap Tire Program Triennial Report

Overview

Every day in Michigan, thousands of tires are replaced with new tires on vehicles. These used tires become scrap tires. Michigan contributes ten million of the nation's 269 million scrap tires to the waste stream each year. There are significant public health and environment risks associated with scrap tire piles. Tire fires create toxic smoke as well as contaminating the soil and water. In addition, scrap tire piles serve as breeding grounds for mosquitos that could result in the transmission of diseases, such as the West Nile and Zika viruses. Michigan has developed a Scrap Tire Program to minimize the environmental and public health risks and promote new markets for scrap tires.

Scrap Tire Program

The Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Scrap Tire Program (Program) has two primary functions:

1. Conduct inspections and provide oversight for the scrap tire industry that includes:
 - 239 registered scrap tire haulers
 - 90 scrap tire collection sites
 - 8 scrap tires processors
 - 9 certified end users



Figure 1: Measuring a scrap tire pile during an inspection.

2. Administer grant programs responsible for scrap tire cleanup and market development:
 - Provided \$28.5 million of grants since 1993

- Provides nearly 50 grants annually, which have funded the collection and proper disposal of over 32 million tires, to date



Figure 2: Scrap tire site before and after a Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant

- Provides, on average, 15 market development grants annually to counties, cities, villages, universities, and private enterprises for market development opportunities, including pilot projects, equipment purchases, and research and development



Figure 3: Outdoor flooring tiles made from molded crumb rubber. ©Rubber Flooring Inc. 2010-2015

Funding

The Program's annual budget is approximately \$3.9 million, including funding for 10 staff and approximately 70 outgoing grants each year. Funding for the Program is provided by a \$1.50 fee collected by the Secretary of State for each motor vehicle title transfer in Michigan.

Stakeholder Process

The DEQ initiated a stakeholder process, including a Scrap Tire Advisory Committee (STAC) in 2005. The DEQ regularly meets with retailers, processors, haulers, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League, and various other partners to evaluate and modify the Program, as needed. Based on input from the group,

legislative changes were last advanced and enacted in 2015. The changes provided additional clarity, assisted with cleanup, and promoted market development.

Moving Forward

Based on the ongoing stakeholder discussions and previous success of the Program, no programmatic changes are being recommended at this time. Properly and safely processing and disposing of the large volume of scrap tires generated each year is an ongoing and ever-changing challenge. Therefore, the Program will make a more aggressive effort to find other avenues for scrap tire recycling. Based on these challenges, the primary Program goals for the next several years are to:

- Collaborate with the Michigan Department of Transportation to continue to promote routine installation of crumb-rubber asphalt, including additional public awareness
- Provide additional public awareness on the benefits of reusing scrap tires for playground, athletic fields, and other recreational activities
- Address new, smaller-volume scrap tire accumulations prior to them becoming an issue
- Manage ongoing scrap tire generation (estimated 10 million annually)

These include efforts by the DEQ to:

- Work with urban areas on dumping cleanup and enforcement, to prevent further dumping
- Work with local health departments to address cleanup of small accumulations, possibly pooling those located in an area
- Work with local communities on cleanup days
- Work on sites that are bought/inherited that contain tires
- Work on cleaning up old salvage yards

The DEQ will work with the STAC to:

- Continue to implement and refine a more effective Scrap Tire Market Development Grant Program
- Promote the use of rubber modified asphalt and other engineered uses of tires (backfill, playground surfaces, athletic surfaces, rubber molded products, etc.)
- Limit the growth of sites without appropriate bonding
- Address remaining smaller tire accumulations and dumping
- Address community and farm cleanups through the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Program

For additional information on the Program, go to www.michigan.gov/scraptires.