

July 9, 2014 Solid Waste Definitions Group Conference Call notes

Those present were: Andrew Kenefick, Art Starry, Brad Lovass, Kip Eagles, Jody Snyder, Alli Kingfisher, Scott Windsor, Suellen Mele, Ted Silvestri, and Gary Bleeker

Gary mentioned that the group had a large number of topics to discuss, and asked for group members to keep their comments brief. No idea or suggestion is off the table. Our primary task is to review and if necessary, improve the definitions of “Solid Waste” or “wastes”, “Recycling”, and “Recyclable materials”.

The topics included the following:

Discards

We discussed whether the term “discards” should be added to the definition of “Solid waste” or “wastes”. “Discards” appears in the EPA’s definition of solid waste, and is present in most state definitions nationally. If added to the definition of “Solid waste” or “wastes”, the term “Discards” would be added to WAC 173-350-100, Definitions.

The use of examples of Discards would be helpful for people in the industry. More discussion will occur during future meetings.

Sham Recycling

The use of examples of Sham Recycling was suggested to be added to the definitions section. The definition would identify the improper collection and transport of recyclable materials throughout the state. One commenter mentioned that recyclable materials should not be collected, transported and then disposed of at a landfill. More discussion will occur during future meetings.

Combining MRFs and Recycling

Gary mentioned that over the years, the idea of combining the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) language found in WAC 173-350-310, Intermediate Solid Waste Handling Facilities, with the Recycling language in WAC 173-350-210 has come up. The merger would create a new section which may make it easier for some members of the recycling industry understand the subtle differences between the terms MRF and Recycling. MRFs operate differently than Transfer stations, Baling and Compaction sites, and Drop boxes, so further discussion may be needed to determine whether a new section is needed.

Eliminating Exemptions

Gary mentioned that he had heard statements over the past few years, that all solid waste facilities should be required to obtain a solid waste permit, and that current exemptions should be revoked. More discussion about the elimination of exemptions will occur in future meetings.

Future calls and meetings

We will have another conference call in August, and a Face to Face meeting following the September W2RAC meeting in Lacey.