

## **MRW East/West Meetings Fall 2009 Roundtable Updates**

### **Paint Product Stewardship**

Legislation passed in OR in 2009 making OR the first state in the nation with a producer responsibility program for architectural paints and coatings.

The OR program is designed as pilot program that can hopefully be duplicated as the program rolls out to other states in the future.

There are some concerns on the part of government in other states that the way the program is being implemented in OR is not conducive to how some states would like to see it implemented in their state. A couple of the issues of concern are:

- Whether or not collection sites would be compensated for their collection costs.
- What performance metrics will be used, and what is the process for developing them?  
Will performance goals be set for source reduction, reuse, and collection/recycling?

The states of CA, CT, and VT are the next states slated for rollout. WA will be running Pharmaceutical and Mercury Lighting producer responsibility legislation in 2010, so paint will not come up then. However, there are plans to run paint legislation in 2011.

### **Hazardous Waste Planning Guidelines**

The Hazardous Waste Planning Guidelines are being plain talked and finalized internally. Once this process is completed (early November) they will be sent out for broader public comment to Environmental Health, Solid Waste, and Public Works Directors. The stakeholders who originally worked on the document will also be included when the guidelines are distributed. The Hazardous Waste Guidelines will be sent out at the same time as the Solid Waste Planning Guidelines.

### **E-Cycle Washington**

By the end of September the E-Cycle Washington program had exceeded our expectations for the volume of materials to be collected in the entire year. The program has received nearly 30 million pounds with three months to go.

It is likely, but not yet assured, that the program landscape will be changing next year with the addition of one and possibly two independent plans in addition to the Standard Plan operated

by the WMMFA. These proposed plans are under review by Ecology and local governments to determine if their collection networks meet the minimum requirements. A “contingent” approval or rejection will be made in early November. If contingently approved, these plans will have until the end of December to finalize all aspects of their plans for final approval.

How additional plans would impact the overall program is impossible to tell, but at the very least there should be additional collection opportunities and convenience for the public.

### **Disposing of Liquids in MSW Landfills**

At both meetings, the issue of allowance of liquids in MSW Landfills by WAC 173-351 came up in regards to latex paint handling. Ecology pointed out that the state’s Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste landfills rule does not prohibit the disposal of “house-hold size quantities” of liquids into MSW landfills. However, local regulations or facilities may restrict the disposal of liquids. Please refer to WAC 173-351-200(9)(a)(i) and (9) (b)(i-iii) for more information:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-351-200> .

### **Preparing for Floods in the Kent Valley (King County)**

People in King County are diligently preparing for a flood in the Kent Valley this winter. Due to irregularities in the Howard Hanson Dam, the Corps of Engineers will not be able to store as much water behind the dam. This will put additional pressure on the levee system, increasing the likelihood that the Green River will flood.

Even if you don’t live in King County, it is a good time to prepare for winter storms. Floods can happen anywhere. Even if your home or business is not in a floodplain, it could be flooded by natural or manmade events. Taking time to prepare can protect human health, property, and the environment from flood damage.

This could have potential impact beyond King County:

- Flooding could disrupt transportation systems including road and rail. Solid waste collection service may be disrupted or shipments may have to be re-routed.
- Many local MRW programs rely on Phillips Services for handling MRW. Phillip’s main facility in Kent may be inundated by flood water, temporarily disrupting service.

Ecology’s Hazardous Wastes and Toxics Reduction Program is in the process of creating flood preparedness flyers for homes and businesses than can be customized with local information.

A new link has been added on the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction [home page](#) that provides information to households and businesses on managing hazardous waste and products when preparing for floods. There are also resources for flood clean-up and waste disposal on the [floods page](#). If you have any questions please contact Michael Bergman at (360) 407-6853.

## **Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) Reform**

TSCA is the only major environmental law that Congress has not updated since its initial passage over 30 years ago. Washington has joined a consortium of states to give states a strong voice and create a shared vision for TSCA reform in anticipation of Congressional action. To that end, states are being asked to endorse “State Principles on TSCA Reform,” in order to guide Congressional efforts to reform TSCA. The principles are still in draft form but include ideas such as “requiring chemical data reporting,” “promote safer chemicals and products,” and “fund state programs.”