

Connecticut Product Stewardship Council meeting with Paint Care

October 24, 2011

Meeting Summary

The purpose for this meeting was to provide program information to the household hazardous waste vendors and have a discussion about the process for selecting a vendor to manage the paint collected through the program and how to coordinate with existing household hazardous waste programs.

After introductions, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection staff gave an update on permits and future plans. The comment period for the reissuance of the municipal solid waste transfer station has closed. The permit needed to be amended to address the collection of paint at municipal transfer stations. The suggested language changes are now being reviewed. The Department will also be drafting a new permit to allow retailers to accept latex and oil based paint from residents.

Marjaneh Zarrehtarvar and Mannie Cheung, representing Paint Care, gave a joint presentation on the program for the benefit of the household hazardous waste vendors. After the presentation, there was a group discussion raising important issues on how the HHW programs, vendors, and Paint Care would work together to ensure then paint is managed efficiently.

Some highlights of the discussion:

- One vendor stated that if the HHW programs began to accept latex paint when they previously hadn't, then they would likely see an increase in the number of cars which would necessitate an increased number of staff which in turn could increase program costs. One program indicated that while more cars may show up, the vendors would no longer have to bulk the paint which would decrease the amount of labor. Some programs bulk paint, others do not. One potential solution is to use the savings from paint management to conduct one or more additional HHW collections which would spread out the crowds. Another is to promote retail and municipal transfer station collection programs as an alternative and more convenient way for residents to drop off paint.
- There was a suggestion to include aerosols in the program. Paint Care responded that including aerosols was something they would consider in the future.
- There was discussion about transportation efficiencies. Would the transporter for Paint Care have the ability to service all HHW programs going on concurrently and have all the paint off site by the end of the day as is required by permit. Paint Care indicated they were confident they could manage all the sites and have paint removed.
- John Segala of Amazon Paint, a latex paint recycler, was on the phone and described his interest in this program. Amazon is investigating siting a latex paint recycling facility in

Connecticut to accept latex paint and reblend it into a recycled content product. Amazon has found in Oregon that about 57% of the latex paint collected from an HHW collection or other drop site is often in good condition for reblending. (Note: 3% is often reused directly). In Oregon latex paint, which cannot be reused or reblended is used in fuel generation (4%) and landfilled (28%). The economics of his facility depends on getting a sufficient supply of paint which can be reblended as well as being able to sell the recycled content paint. While oil-based paint can be recycled, there is little market for it because of current VOC requirements. In Oregon, about 3% is reused directly and 97% of oil-based paint is used as a fuel-blend. With an increasing trend toward preferred production and use of latex paint, it should result in less recovery of oil-based paint in the future.

- HHW programs are concerned about working with two different HHW vendors on the same location. They asked questions about how the paint would be managed if the HHW vendor was separate from the paint contractor. Paint Care indicated they would work individually with each program to try and be as flexible as possible.
- Paint Care spoke about going out to bid with an RFP so that there could be some room for negotiations with a vendor to manage the paint. They do not have a specific time frame established but will work within the statutory deadline of July 2013.
- There was agreement that retailers will play an important role in providing for convenient drop off of paint. The next meeting will be planned to include retailers and educate them about the program and what benefits it has to offer.

Next Steps

The group felt it was important to reach out to retailers. The next meeting (perhaps in January) will try to pull together retailers and other stakeholders to educate them on how to participate in the program.

Household hazardous waste vendors will keep in touch with Paint Care for up to date information on participating in the program.