

DOE Sustainability Assistance Network (SAN) Notes
Thursday, June 21, 2012

1. Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) Highlights

Paul Estabrooks, SPO

Paul Estabrooks was unable to make the call. The SSPP has been vetted through the collaborative action process and has been sent to the Deputy Secretary. It will be sent to OMB next week.

2. CH2M Hill Presentation: “Chemical Lifecycle Management Cost”

Jeff Hieb, CH2M Hill

Budget impacts are the greatest challenge to reducing hazardous chemicals, but it is possible to reduce hazardous chemicals at your site while also saving money. The Chemical Lifecycle Management Cost Analysis Tool estimates the actual lifecycle cost of chemical purchases, which informs purchasing decisions by helping you determine what chemicals and quantities are truly cheaper over their lifetimes. This can enable you to reduce your toxic purchases, switch to less hazardous alternatives, and save money. The tool estimates costs for the planning, acquisition, receiving, storage and inventory, and disposition stages of a chemical’s lifetime. It is available on the HSS website at:

www.hss.doe.gov/HealthSafety/WSHP/chem_safety/tools.html. A presentation explaining the use of the tool is also available at the HSS website:

www.hss.doe.gov/HealthSafety/WSHP/chem_safety/ws2012/tuesday/day1_0915_Hieb.ppt.

3. Richland Presentation: “Hanford Waste Diversion”

Tom Ferns, Richland Operations

The Hanford Site is engaged in one of the largest and most complex environmental cleanup projects in the world stemming from the 40-year legacy of the Manhattan Project including: deactivation, decommissioning and demolition of facilities and structures; remediation of contaminated soils and groundwater (using a LEED Gold wastewater facility); and treatment of liquid waste in tanks. The plant will be around for at least another 60 years. Hanford host a number of waste diversion programs and projects, including site recycling programs, the U-Canyon barrier construction, rail car preservation, reuse of rail line, scrap metal recycling, and reuse of radioactive contaminated lead bricks.

Hanford has recycling programs for: universal wastes, regulated materials, plastic, cardboard, paper, wood and furniture, scrap metals, and electronics. In total, these programs recycled close to 2,000 metric tons of material last year. At its U-Canyon barrier construction project, Hanford has reused 200,200 cubic yards of debris, at a cost savings of \$3.6 million. Scrap metal recycling from the demolition of C Reactor resulted in \$700,000 of cost avoidance for shipping, disposal, and grouting.

At one time, Hanford had 158 miles of rail tracks for transporting nuclear materials, but railroad operations were finally suspended in 1997. Left over were: 11 cab cars for transporting spent nuclear fuel, 2 tank cars for transporting liquid nuclear wastes, 2 diesel locomotives, and 1 flat car. Two of the classic locomotives and two cask cars were decontaminated and relocated to the B-Reactor museum. This reduced surveillance & maintenance costs and saved \$690,000 in grout mixing and transportation. Also, 30 miles of old rail line were surveyed and 5,000 tons of it were removed and released for reuse off-site, saving \$2 million in disposal costs. With lots of old rail line left, Hanford hopes to expand this project.

Contaminated lead bricks have been recycled in a pilot project by Philotechnics, which uses the lead for shielding in the nuclear industry. So far, 6,775 kg of lead have been recycled. Since there are so many disposal options at the Hanford site, incentivizing this reuse has challenges.

4. Sustainability and Compliance Reporting Clean Air and GHG Update

Larry Stirling, HS-21

CAWG's last meeting occurred on June 7, 2012. The next meeting will occur on August 9, 2012 from 1-2 pm EDT. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The main topic covered at the previous meeting was that EPA published a proposed, modified Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) rule on June 7, 2012 (40 CFR, Part 63, Subpart ZZZZ). The modifications include changes to the requirements for 4-stroke engines and allows for emergency RICE operation for Emergency Demand Response (EDR). The old limit for emergency generator operations was 50 hours per year, which was too restrictive because of operation required for maintenance checks. EPA has increased this limit to 100 hours per year. The 4-stroke engine amendments include alternative testing for total hydrocarbons for rich burn and replacing emission limits with equipment requirement for area sources larger than 500 hp. RICE regulatory determination information is available at <http://www.combustionportal.org/ricecalc.cfm>. This is one of the most complicated and difficult to understand rules EPA is developing—there are different performance requirements for many different technologies. The draft technical assistance tool is undergoing review at Headquarters. It summarizes the relevant regulations and provides details on reporting and testing requirements. Additional information is provided at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/rice/webinars.html>

Also, EPA published the 2008 ozone non-attainment area designations, which they do every 5 years. The primary and secondary standard is 0.075 ppm. Additional information including a list of nonattainment designations by state and county is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/2008standards/index.htm>. EPA has started the 5-year review process for the next ozone standard. It would not be surprising to see a proposed standard below the 2008 ozone standard of 0.075ppm, as this value was above the range identified by the scientific committee advising the EPA.

Finally, EPA proposed technical corrections and amendments to the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule: 40 CFR, Part 98. These are technical amendments for clarification—they do not change the quality or substance of the rule.

EMS 3 Year Audit & Declaration Memo

Steve Woodbury, HS-21

Site EMSs are required to conform to the ISO 14001:2004 standard. Sites may be registered to the ISO standard by an accredited registrar or self-declare following “a formal audit by a qualified party outside the control or scope of the EMS” in accordance with the CEQ instructions. This audit must be conducted at least every three years. DOE's deadline to declare all EMSs fully implemented was 3 years ago, so the deadline for many sites to conduct a new audit is approaching. To declare that an audit has occurred, the site must submit a memo to DOE. So far, declaration memos have been received from 11 sites. These memos should be copied to Josh Silverman (HS-21) and Jennifer McDonald (SPO). Twenty-Two sites have registered with the ISO standard. 12 have not sent in memos. Several sites have informed DOE of a good reason for scheduling recertification after June 30. We do not know the status on 20 sites; we would like to hear from you (cc Josh Silverman)! Tell us what extenuating circumstances you are experiencing.

A meeting of the interagency group for updating EMS standards will happen soon. Let us know if there are DOE field personnel interested in being part of the interagency group.

New EPEAT Standards for Imaging Equipment and T.V.s

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The new EPEAT standards have been approved. The balloting was tight, but 75% majorities were achieved for the new standards. Reviews still have to occur, so implementation will probably not happen before January 2013. We will be sending you materials so that you are prepared for the new standards. Expect to report according to the new standards for FY 2013. These standards include equipment such as printers, copiers, fax machines, and wide-screen televisions. They should transform the industry in terms of reducing toxicity and improving energy profiles.

The results are in for the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC), and DOE is the leading federal agency for the third year in a row. 11 sites won awards, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable electronics. The awards ceremony will be here in Washington on September 26 after the close of the GreenGov conference and one day before the DOE awards on September 27.

On the next SAN call, Cate Berard from the EPA/FEC program will provide an overview of all the changes in electronics requirements: EPEAT, electronics management, and recycling. In September, we will have a presentation on print management from our colleagues at the Portsmouth site. The headquarters staff had a great trip to Portsmouth recently and discovered some new best practices that we will share with the group.

DOE Best-in-Class Nominations for 2012 DOE Sustainability Awards

Beverly Whitehead, HS-21

There were 137 award nominations entered into the PPTRS. June 1 was the submission deadline, and award nominations were forwarded to the PSOs and NNSA on June 6. June 22 is the deadline for the PSOs and NNSA to submit their Best-in-Class (BIC) nominations to HS-21. These nominations will be forwarded to an independent panel of judges to determine the 2012 DOE Sustainability Award winners.

On September 27, the DOE Sustainability Awards ceremony will occur in conjunction with the 2012 GreenGov Symposium. The FEC, Greenbuy, and GreenGov winners will all be recognized at the DOE Sustainability Awards ceremony.

2012 GreenGov Symposium and Presidential Award Nominations

Beverly Whitehead, HS-21

The symposium will be held September 24-26 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Registration is open now. The early bird discount deadline is July 15. The website is: www.greengov2012.org. DOE submitted 35 nominations for the 2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards.

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Next SAN Conference Call: July 19, 2012

Contact Beverly Whitehead (HS-21), (202) 586-6073, Beverly.Whitehead@hq.doe.gov, with issues you would like to raise and/or presentations you would like to make.