

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
Thursday, January 22, 2004
Meeting summary

Agenda

- Demolition Case Study/Iron Mining Association Video
- Streamline Project
- P2 Summary Report Presentations
- Forest stewardship and certification of wood

Announcements

Ned Brooks, Clean Air Minnesota, 651-296-7242

Businesses and environmental groups, along with government, created Clean Air Minnesota to help improve Minnesota's outdoor air quality and prevent violation of the EPA standard for outdoor air. Clean Air MN is putting forward an Executive Order with the following ideas for action steps:

- 1.) Reduce state government's contribution to air pollution by implementing technologically and economically feasible measures including but not limited to:
 - Purchasing or leasing the most fuel efficient and least polluting vehicles that meet the needs of the state;
 - Refueling state-operated vehicles with the cleanest fuel available;
 - Reducing state energy use through purchasing energy efficient office equipment and by employing energy conserving strategies in state-owned or leased buildings;
 - Procure and use products with the lowest VOC content;
 - Employ landscaping that reduces the need for gasoline-powered maintenance equipment;
 - Encourage employees to seek alternatives to driving alone.
- 2.) Promote regular communications and cooperation between state agencies in preventing pollution, such as working with the Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team to provide guidance and resources to accomplish the above;
- 3.) Encourage policy and purchasing decisions that aid in air pollution prevention;
- 4.) Inform staff when an Air Pollution Health Alert is issued and provide information and encouragement to state employees to implement measures at work and at home to reduce pollution on such days, including but not limited to:
 - Postpone using oil-based paints, solvents, varnishes or any consumer product that releases fumes.
 - Postpone mowing or maintaining public or leased grounds and lawns with gasoline-fueled lawn equipment.
 - Delay refueling of state automobiles, if possible.
 - Avoid unnecessary single-occupancy driving, excessive automobile idling and jackrabbit starts.
 - Walk, ride take the bus, or use other non-gasoline-fueled sources of transportation for state business use and from work.
 - Conserve energy by turning off unnecessary lighting and equipment.
- 5.) Evaluate annual gains in air pollution prevention, report on progress and acknowledge outstanding efforts with appropriate recognitions.

Comments, Input on Executive Order: Ned Brooks 296-8659 or Jeff Buss 297-8659 (MPCA). Ned and others from Clean Air MN will attend next meeting to give details on their progress.

Wayne Gjerde, Biodiesel, 651-215-0270

For comprehensive information on biodiesel (emissions, availability, current stories, etc), Wayne suggested visiting www.biodiesel.org. This website uses facts to help separate myth from reality, as it is one of the most tested fuels out there. In July 2005, a mandatory B2 blend must be used statewide. Currently a number of coops outside of the metro area carry biodiesel, but Wayne was not sure about availability within the Twin Cities area.

- John Bryan stated that his experience has shown there are fuel blending issues with biodiesel, but performance was the same as with standard diesel.
- Mike Taylor mentioned that Hennepin County set up a contract to buy fuel in bulk – anyone interested can purchase biodiesel off that contract. Suggested having someone from Hennepin County speak at next meeting to give more details.

Iron Mining Association video

Gordy Dormanen, IRRRA, 218-254-7967 ext. 264

Gordy gave a brief introduction before the 15 minute video and stated the importance of mining to northeast Minnesota. The video went through the products, process and importance of iron ore, highlighting the following:

- Use satellites to determine how deep to dig
- Rock is then delivered to the crusher (~ 30% iron ore) that pulverizes to powder
- Mills mix powder with water to create slurry
- Slurry is then mixed with clay and turned into pellets (heated to hold shape)
- Pellets sent on trains (and then ships if necessary)
- Made into vehicles, bridges, etc.
- _ of cost to create 1 ton of iron is energy
- Enough iron ore reserves to last 300 years

Environmental initiatives:

- Replant after mining
- Create basins to hold tailings
- Have dust control devices

For more information: www.taconite.org or Contact: fongaro@taconite.org

Best Buy Demolition Case Study

Gordy Dormanen, IRRRA, 218-254-7967 ext. 264

Gordy was involved in demolishing from 1974 until budget cuts closed his program in 2003. One of the projects he worked on was the demolition for the Best Buy Headquarters in Richfield, MN. Best Buy wanted to consolidate its 13 offices statewide into one central headquarters. The approximate site location is the area between I-94 and 76th St.; Penn Avenue and Knox Avenue, totaling 47 acres. Some areas of the site had special environmental needs that had to be taken into consideration. Hazardous materials had to be removed from homes before they could be demolished, such as heaters, stoves, ovens, furnaces, etc. Other environmental issues needed to be addressed as well, such as handling water wells and septic tanks. Industrial buildings were generally made of block and brick, but also had hazardous materials that needed to be properly disposed of, such as fluorescent lamps, fire extinguishers and barrels containing unknown substances. After these concerns are taken care of and the demolition took place, the new headquarters was built totaling 1.5 million square feet.

Streamline Project

Orrin Butterfield, Department of Administration, 651-556-8019

The Streamline project is a communication tool that piggybacks on the idea of “not reinventing the wheel”, and is a:

- Continuous learning environment.
- Publication of best practices in business processes and citizen services.
- Venue for discussion and collaboration.
- Clearinghouse for acquired knowledge, successes, and pitfalls to avoid.
- Billboard for haves, wants, and needs

There are 2 ways to communicate using Streamline, 1) share what you think others may want to know and 2) participate in dialog.

The best way to discover the features of Streamline is to take some time and explore the website yourself (www.streamline.state.mn.us). Orrin went through some of the basics, and suggested using the site map to navigate. There are 4 main themes that are displayed across the top used to organize content, 1) Administrative Operational Services, 2) Business Services, 3) Citizen Services and 4) Government Services.

Submittals are always organized in the same format to maintain consistency:

- Title
- Executive summary
- Contact information
- Details on project

For those who want to submit new projects, there is an online form available under “submit a project”. Orrin suggested we post our Executive Order and any relevant success stories with web addresses for those that want more information.

There is a search engine on for the site, but needs to be refined as right now it searches the entire Northstar site. On the Streamline home page there is a link titled “streamline discussion” that gives the user an opportunity to suggest topics you would like to see in the future.

If you would like to respond and/or comment on a particular discussion topic, you need to login for record keeping purposes and acknowledge/agree to established communications policies and guidelines.

- Username is your “employee ID”
- Password is last 4 digits of your “employee ID”

IPPAT could use Streamline as a tool for discussion and to give others a background on who we are and what we do, as well as serve as an area to post reports.

P2 Summary Report Presentations

Mike Nevala, Met Council Environmental Services, 651-602-1065

Mike Nevala gave the highlights of the MCES pollution prevention summary report. The MCES operates the regional wastewater collection and treatment system in most of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, which includes eight treatment plants in addition to three maintenance facilities, a field office, and administrative headquarters for a total of thirteen staffed facility locations.

The MCES has purchased two gasoline/electric hybrid vehicles. The Honda Civic Hybrids have two motors—one that is powered by an 85 horsepower 4-cylinder gasoline engine and one that is powered by a 13 horsepower nickel metal hydride battery. It is estimated that the hybrids achieve an efficiency of 46 miles per gallon in the city and 51 miles per gallon on the highway.

MCES has had a partnership with the Minnesota Dental Association since 1998. As part of that partnership, MCES and MDA created a Voluntary Dental Office Amalgam Separator Program, formally adopted on December 11, 2002. The three main actions are: 1) implementation of a joint program to reduce dental mercury loadings, 2) granting a variance from the Council’s local pretreatment standard for mercury to those dental offices participating in the program and 3) approval of a grant to the MDA to cover a share of the cost to market the program to dentists.

IPPAT Business and Discussion

Mike Taylor had to step down as leader of the metrics committee due to other responsibilities. The committee will meet during February and March to come up with revised instructions for discussion at the April IPPAT meeting.

The MnGREAT! Awards review committee will also meet during February and March and have some things to discuss at the April meeting.

Forest stewardship and certification of wood

Phil Guillery, 651-343-2131

In the 1980’s the idea to ban rainforest wood to prevent deforestation was being tossed around. Eventually it was decided that would be one of the worst ways to handle the issue of deforestation. The fear was that a ban would take all value out of rainforest wood and the end result would probably be deforestation anyhow to make room cattle, agriculture, etc. Instead, there was the realization that all interested and affected parties globally needed to come together to bring sustainability to harvesting. In 1993 the result was the creation of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) (www.fscus.org).

Minnesota is one of the leaders in forest certification – the DNR and Aitkin County were two of the first. FSC decided that the first step was to get certified land yielding products. The second step was to find markets for those

certified products. Wood is a very environmental product if managed correctly (FSC = good forestry + finding markets).

There are 3 chambers within FSC: 1) environment, 2) economic, 3) social. All chambers must come to agreement to move forward. FSC has 10 guiding principles along with numerous criteria to ensure strict standards are met. Every 3 years all members, including business, environmental organizations and government, come together.

FSC requires a “chain of custody” for each product so the process can be tracked and traced back to the forest it was harvested from. Examples of success are Lebanon Hills (1/2 of all wood was certified) and LEED certification (gives points for FSC).

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy puts out a booklet titled “The Good Wood Bulletin” that lists numerous places that carry FSC certified products. These products are generally price competitive.

Next Meeting

The next IPPAT meeting will be held on April 22, 2004, at a place we’ll announce when we send the agenda out. We will learn more about Clean Air Minnesota, alternative fuels for our vehicle fleets, and MINNCOR’s program to provide cleaning products to state agencies, and we will discuss the MnGREAT! Awards for this year and proposed revisions to the P2 Summary Report instructions for this year.

Attendees

Gloria Sonnen, Admin Materials Management Division, 651-297-2954
Glenn Olson, Human Services, 651-297-8742
Gene Christenson, University of Minnesota, 612-626-1590
Stan Linnell, Natural Resources Facilities and Operations, 651-297-4901
Mike Nevala, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, 651-602-1065
Sara Barsel, St. Paul College, 651-647-9506
John Thompson, MMCD, 651-645-9149
John Bryan, Metro Transit, 612-349-7680
Ken Auer, Military Affairs, 320-632-7565
Wayne Gjerde, OEA, 651-215-0270
Dale Peterson, MINNCOR, 651-603-6703
DeEon Phillippi, Century College/MCF-STW, 651-779-5700
Ned Brooks, PCA, 651-296-7242
Gordy Dormanen, IRR, 218-254-7967
Mike Taylor, Commerce, 651-296-6830
Cindy McComas, MnTAP, 612-624-4678
Emily Moore, OEA, 651-215-0201
Mike Liles, OEA, 651-215-0220