

Minutes
Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Council
December 13, 1999
Lapham Peak State Park

Council members present: Steve Plater (Glencoe), Chair; Donna Griesemer (Spic and Span), Jill Fitzgerald (Jill's Master Dry Cleaner), Jim Fitzgerald (Herb Fitzgerald Co); Jim Cherwinka (Wausau Chemical); Jeanne Tarvin (STS)

Others present: Don Gallo (MBF), Joe Phillips (WFI), Robin Schmidt (DNR - RR), Leslie Gauberti (DNR - CFA)

1. General: Robin provided an overview of the status of the program. She indicated the rule would be effective on February 1, 2000. She highlighted the outreach materials being developed and indicated that the fact sheets and forms would be sent to all licensed dry cleaners by the end of the week. Leslie distributed draft copies of the forms for the program. The Council suggested that the cover letter that accompanies these materials be explicit about past costs application deadlines, and when the rule requirements come into play (2/1/2000). The group also discussed that DNR should have a strategy in place by 2/1/2000 in anticipation of receiving more than one application that day (how do you prioritize the applications when they are received on the same day). Jeanne Tarvin also requested that we put more information on the forms to help consultants figure out which costs go in which category when actions serve two purposes (i.e. drilling for a well and soil sampling). The Council requested a list of acronyms be developed and updated as needed.
2. Hazardous waste issues: The Council discussed hazardous waste issues. The question was raised regarding how the DNR would deal with past costs where the soils may have been illegally handled even though it was in accordance with DNR policy/approvals at that time. The Council also asked to be kept up on any hazardous waste issues – including the use of variances and other ways to minimize costs associated with treatment of hazardous wastes or changes in hazardous waste laws.
3. Outreach: Joe Phillips asked whether the DNR can hotlink to web sites outside of the agency – i.e. to the WFI web site or to the State Coalition for Drycleaners (clu-in) site. Robin said she would ask. We also discussed the use of the DNR web site for putting program analysis information (financial and technical). Robin and Leslie indicated to Joe Phillips that they would be willing to participate on a UWEX radio broadcast informational program on DERP in February (after the WFI convention).
4. Statutory Changes: Don Gallo handed out information on issues the Legislative Committee of WFI was working on for future legislative changes. Robin and Leslie indicated that could support most of these items, but they would need to bring them back to DNR administration before making a formal commitment of support. Some of these changes the Council indicated they would like to see made more expeditiously than the next biennial budget cycle.
5. The group discussed the role of the Council and identified four areas the group would like to focus on:
 - * serving as a liaison between industry and the DNR
 - * reviewing the program
 - * assisting on legislative changes
 - * updating and process issues
6. The Council talked about meeting frequency, and decided that they would meet on an as-needed basis, as often as necessary (but perhaps as frequently as quarterly or biannually, depending on the issues arising). The Council requested that the future meetings be held at Lapham Peak State Park, if possible.
7. The Council wanted to encourage the DNR to continue to provide additional outreach to other groups, including developing successful site profiles and highlighting new technologies, as appropriate. The Council continues to be concerned about landlords refusing to lease to dry cleaners, and about banks that may have concerns loaning money to drycleaners who need to do cleanups. Mr. Gallo indicated there was a lender's policy now available that would cover the cost of cleanups if a bank loaned money to a property that failed to complete their cleanup.
8. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for mid-April. One agenda item is the mission/goals of the Council (i.e. performance measures for the Council).