

# WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: August 7, 2025

Location: Virtual - Teams

Member Attendance:  Curry,  Doverspike,  Kalvelage  Karwoski,  Ketchum,  Knudtson,  Mathewson,  Michitsh  Pellitteri,  Sexton,  Welch,  Reuter

Guests:

DNR WA Attendance:  Krausensky,  Semrau,  Strom Hiorns,  Murray,  Baerwald,  Grimm,  Brester,  Schmit,  Sullivan

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:00	Welcome/Agenda Review/Minutes	
9:10	DNR Updates	<p>Waste and Materials Management Program staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hiring frost due to federal budget</li><li>• Waste Management Engineer, doing interviews soon</li><li>• David Buser left agency, working on hiring new hydro</li><li>• Ruth O'Donnell will be retiring, working on hiring new food waste specialist</li></ul> <p>State and federal budget updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Protection Agency 19% of total budget was cut</li><li>• State funding is steady, 6 vacant positions removed from program</li><li>• 7.5 vacant positions still open</li></ul> <p>Upcoming public meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MRF Stakeholder Meeting 8/26</li><li>• Council on Recycling Meeting 9/5</li><li>• Solid Waste Interested Parties 9/23</li></ul> <p>Other business – Recycling Excellence Awards</p>
9:30	DNR owner financial responsibility updates	<p>Changes to SW OFR Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NR 520.07 (5) Projected inflation rate → avg inflation from past 5 calendar years</li><li>• NR 520.08(2)(a)4 Projected interest rate → projected inflation rate +1.5%</li><li>• Expected effects: ~3.8% to 3.6% inflation</li><li>• NR 520.06 (3)-(4) FDIC Insurance Limit \$250,000</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NR 520.06 (6m) Municipal Financial Test (Alternative Method) Emergency Rule (~Nov 2024) - Municipalities may now use the method, similar to the net worth test allowed for companies</li> </ul> <p>Permanent Rule - reflect comments received (e.g. annual submissions are now ~July 31)</p> <p>Recalculated each year? Yes Less than a % difference? Long term analysis, averaged out to 1.5%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased efficiencies in processing OFR calculations</li> <li>More attention to OFR data QAQC</li> <li>Increased outreach to regulated facilities</li> </ul>
9:45	<b>DNR efficiencies discussions follow-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating guidance documents and checklists</li> <li>Focus on training</li> <li>Better define incompleteness process</li> <li>Make use of the study group</li> <li>Internal DNR coordination</li> <li>Potential next steps for DNR</li> <li>Topics for any additional guidance to work on</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bart S. encourages incorporating stakeholders in guidance.</li> <li>Sarah M. encourages guidance feedback, especially if there's a lack of clarity in any existing guidance documents.</li> <li>Julie K. expressed appreciation for DNR efficiencies 😊</li> </ul>
10:15	<b>Aerosol cans as universal waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US EPA Promulgated aerosol cans as a universal waste effective Feb. 2020</li> <li>WI promulgated aerosol cans as a universal waste effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>Businesses must manage these wastes as either hazardous waste or as universal waste</li> <li>When managed as a universal waste they must follow all requirements of NR 673</li> <li>Household generated can be disposed of in solid waste stream</li> <li>Can be taken to a household hazardous waste/very small quantity generator collection site for management</li> </ul>

	<p>When you are the generator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any person or site whose act or process produces HW → An aerosol can is waste when it can no longer be used for its intended purpose → A small percentage of aerosol cans may contain HW, majority consists of contents under pressure that are flammable</li> <li>• Can be sent to another universal waste or destination facility</li> <li>• Labeling requirements less restrictive, doesn't need HW licensed transporter</li> </ul> <p>When you're a MRF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receives only household waste or solid waste that does not contain HW</li> <li>• Received aerosol cans that are exempt from HW regulations</li> <li>• The cans may be required to be recycled under solid waste regulations</li> <li>• Once cans are punctured, the can must be recycled, and a waste determination must be made on the contents.</li> <li>• Ensure the prevention of fires and release of the contents</li> <li>• Ensure the work is done in a well-ventilated area</li> <li>• Immediately transfer the contents from the waste aerosol can to a container/tank that meets regulatory requirements</li> <li>• If HW is received, notify HW collection site</li> <li>• Education clients to never throw away HW in trash or recycling</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRFs can manage household and VSQG waste aerosol cans when the facility meets the exemption criteria</li> <li>• Aerosol can management regulations require the capture of vapor/liquids during puncturing</li> <li>• Rules are designed to promote recycling and protect human health</li> <li>• Worth with department staff regarding questions/concerns</li> </ul> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: What is the exemption criteria? A: Exemption criteria found in NR 661.0004(2)(a)</li> <li>• Q: What are the universal waste container requirements? A: Containers should be structurally sound and compatible with the contents (e.g. mercury or acids don't belong in metal containers). Additionally, containers must be used if there is evidence of leaking/spilled containers or damage that could cause leakage. Alternatively, the contents in the can must be immediately</li> </ul>
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		<p>punctured/drained/transferred to a container while the can is recycled. Aerosol cans and containers should also be stored away from heat sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Is this presentation shared with any of the MRF stakeholders? A: Have shared presentations with a couple organizations, department is willing to reach out more organizations to share presentations/education.</li> <li>• Q: What kind of guidance documents are available? A: There is a guidance document regarding aerosol cans available, however, it needs to be updated. Guidance documents are still in the works, will be shared soon. Universal Waste guidance/education is available on the DNR website and GovDelivery emails. Will work on increasing education outreach regarding this topic.</li> </ul>
10:45	<b>Landfill rule overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill Rule effective – WA-11-22- 10/1/25</li> <li>• Recycling Rule effective -WA-13-21- 7/1/25</li> <li>• OFR – emergency rule still in effect, finalizing permanent rule work</li> <li>• Non-landfill and E-cycle rule language in the works</li> <li>• Summary documents - Document will be available on website and will be sent to study group members as well</li> <li>• Review, inspection, and licensing fee changes</li> <li>• Changes affecting landfill design and license fee surcharge, will remain the same end of this year. Beginning 1/1/26 will be \$ 0.25 per ton, 1/1/2031 \$0.27 per ton, 1/1/2036 \$0.30 per ton.</li> <li>• Changes affecting landfill monitoring</li> <li>• Changes affecting submittals and DNR review</li> <li>• Changes affecting OFR</li> <li>• Other codified changes effect 1/1/2025</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: How will owners be determined to be an issue? A: partially is instigated by complaints, something to work on directly with the owner. Revising inspection forms, one question in regard to odors and complaints. Issues/violations are not solely based off complaints received.</li> <li>• Q: Are there resources to help with code changes? A: DNR webpage “Resources for landfill owners and operators”</li> <li>• Q: Besides OFR, anything else that would impact closed landfills? If so, outreach would be useful. A: Will make sure to increase outreach.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Are there any guidance documents being updated? A: Large list of documents that need to be updated, feel free to inform department with feedback of which documents to prioritize updating.</li> <li>• C: Webinar would be appreciated</li> </ul>
11:15	<b>Recycling rule implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective as of 7/1/2025</li> <li>• Working now and through the summer/fall on outreach to stakeholders</li> <li>• RUs - webinar, recording on DNR RU webpage along with direct emails, guidance documents. Speaking at WI Towns Association annual conference, 10/13/2025</li> <li>• MRFs- stakeholder meeting 8/26/2025, direct emails, summary specifically on MRF impacts, OFR specific guidance (OFR will be effective in 2027)</li> <li>• Haulers – direct emails, specific guidance on providing RUs tonnage data</li> <li>• Will submit abstract to speak at WIRMC</li> </ul> <p><b>RU Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires reviews/distribution annually</li> <li>• Adds oil filters/absorbents, batteries and food waste/compost</li> <li>• Free educational resources from DNR</li> </ul> <p><b>RU Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If only monthly curbside, access to a drop off</li> <li>• If only individual subscription, modify ordinance and compliance assurance plan</li> <li>• Eliminates pounds per person collection standard</li> <li>• Specified “adequate” recycling</li> <li>• RU begin implementing new education requirements by 12/31/2025</li> <li>• RUs update recycling ordinance by 4/31/2026, new recycling template in development</li> <li>• For RUs impacted by collection requirement changes, establish access to a drop off by 1/1/2026</li> <li>• For RUs only using individual subscription service, update recycling ordinance <b>and CAP</b> by 4/30/2026</li> </ul> <p><b>MRFs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OFR starting June 2027</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12% min glass recycling rate</li> <li>• 20% max residual rate</li> <li>• Changes to the annual MRF self-certification</li> <li>• New self-certification of operation</li> <li>• Provide RUs/haulers info of acceptable materials annually review contracted RU education within 60 days of request, and specify MRF edu are for X facility and as of X date</li> <li>• Short term (less than 48 hrs) and long term (48 hrs or more) contingency plans</li> </ul> <p>Haulers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containers used for collection of recyclables to be clearly labeled</li> <li>• Provide residential recycling tonnage data to RUs by Feb 1 each year. Data must include the name of the MRFs used to process materials</li> <li>• Notify RUs when a new MRF is used.</li> </ul> <p>Many recycling rule resources in development</p>
11:45	<b>Topics for next meeting, Adjourn</b>	Federal funding updates, legislative proposal, DNR efficiencies, batteries, food waste/organics management, managing closed landfills, climate resilient facilities, PFAS bills