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Government Audit Finds Problems With Louisiana Waste Tire Management Program

According to a report released last week by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office, the Waste Tire Management Program managed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) lacks "*effective monitoring procedures*" needed to "*ensure that waste tire data used to calculate subsidized payments to waste tire processors is reasonable, which could result in overpayments.*" During the recently ended fiscal year, DEQ distributed \$19.2 million in payments to five waste tire processors.

The report also found "*inadequate controls over time and attendance records*" and that it "*has not adequately segregated duties for auditing, billing, and collecting delinquent waste tire fees, which increases the risk of misappropriation due to error or fraud.*"

Download the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's report at

[http://app1.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/433D3E8A698D202F86257C3000506E29/\\$FILE/000368D7.pdf](http://app1.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/433D3E8A698D202F86257C3000506E29/$FILE/000368D7.pdf).

Philippine Resolution Calls For Senate Inquiry Into Phthalates And Premature Babies

Yesterday, Philippine Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago introduced a resolution calling on the Senate to investigate any possible links between phthalates and premature deliveries.

According to resolution SRN-401, "*researchers found delivered babies before 37 weeks gestation had higher levels of phthalates in their urine, compared to women who delivered their children at full term, which is 39 weeks.*" It also claims there is a 16% to 65% increase in risk for preterm births in women with elevated urine phthalate levels. The research referred to in the resolution was conducted by the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Health and Demography.

The Philippine Senate resolution can be reviewed at

<http://www.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/1837115537!.pdf>.

Canada Decides Not To Restrict Use Of The Flame Retardant TBBPA

After identifying the brominated flame retardant TBBPA as "*a potential concern to the environment*" and conducting an assessment under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, last week the Canadian Departments of the Environment and Health decided not to take action after all.

TBBPA is been used as a flame retardant in printed circuit boards, plastics for other electronic devices and in other applications.

According to the November 30 announcement, "*it is concluded that tetrabromobisphenol A, tetrabromobisphenol A bis(2-hydroxyethyl ether) and tetrabromobisphenol A bis(allyl ether) do not meet any of the criteria set out in section 64 of the Act.*"

While TBBPA is not current on the EU REACH priority chemicals list, it is on the SIN 2.0 list maintained by the nonprofit organization the International Chemicals Secretariat. In recent years, a number of bills have been introduced in US state legislatures seeking to restrict the chemical's use.

The Canadian government announcement is posted at <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-30/pdf/g1-14748.pdf>.

Statistics & Trends

Eco Emballages Reports 100,000-Ton Reduction In Packaging Generation Over Past Five Years

The highest priority on the five-step waste hierarchy is prevention. Last week Eco Emballages, the French packaging waste compliance scheme, reported that from 2007 through 2012, 100,000 tons of packaging from prevented from entering the French market. Achieving the reduction was a key goal of Grenelle de l'environnement, the broad French environmental law.

Eco Emballages said that for the five-year period, plastic and glass packaging were reduced by 44% and 39, respectively - the largest reductions by material. By sector, beverage producers saved the most packaging, accounting for 77% of the overall reduction.

Get more information at <http://www.ecoemballages.fr/actualite/100-000-tonnes-demballages-en-moins-entre-2007-et-2012>

North Carolina Claims 12% Growth In Recycling Jobs Since 2010

Last month, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) released a report on private sector recycling jobs. According to the nine-page document, private sector recycling jobs have increased 11.95 percent since 2010, bringing the present day total to more than 17,000 jobs. That represents a combined payroll of \$442 million.

The report also found, "*Forty-five percent of recycling businesses surveyed anticipate creating more jobs during the next two years.*" And it states, "*Twenty-eight percent of businesses surveyed report manufacturing a product using a combined 2,264,565 tons of recycled materials.*"

Growth in North Carolina recycling jobs has increased steadily since 1994, when the state began compiling data. In 1994, there were only 7,757 private sector recycling jobs.

Download the new NCDENR report at http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=fad9a293-0650-4a22-81e8-2a01aba78153&groupId=38322.

Kansas DHE Announces Availability of Waste Reduction Grants To Local Governments And Schools

On Monday, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) said it is accepting grant applications from local governments and school districts for purchases of products and materials made from recycled tires. KDHE will fund up to 50 percent of the total cost to purchase and install eligible products.

A second type of grant is being made available to schools for starting or enhancing waste reduction projects. The maximum size of grant available to each school is \$4,500.

The deadline for submitting applications is February.

Get more information at

http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web_archives/2013/12022013.htm.

Business Initiatives

European Paper Industry Claims A 71% Recycling Rate For 2012

Last week, the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) released its 2013 Sustainability Report. Among the statistics published were a 2012 71.1% European paper recycling rate and that paper recycling increased by 78% from 1992 through 2012. CEPI said that on average European paper fiber is reused 3.5 times.

The report also states that to further increase European paper recycling and in support of the EU Waste Framework Directive, "*CEPI advocates an EU-wide ban on landfilling and incinerating recyclable paper by 2015.*"

Download the 2012 CEPI sustainability report at

http://www.cepi-sustainability.eu/uploads/Full_sustainability2013.pdf.

Leading UK Waste Industry Group Says No To Possible Fee Exemption For Biodegradable Plastic Bags

Last week, the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) opened a call for evidence (stakeholder consultation) on a proposed five-pence charge on single-use plastic carrier bags that might exempt biodegradable bags from the charge. Yesterday, the Environmental Services Association, a UK waste industry group, issued a public comment that it "*cautiously welcomed*" the bag charge but that no exemption should be allowed for biodegradable bags.

ESA pointed out that not exempting biodegradable plastic bags would make the English law consistent with the one already in effect in Wales and it would "*avoid confusion among consumers and retailers.*"

The ESA position statement can be found at http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/press_releases/20131127_ESA_Cautiously_welcomes_Defras_plastic_bag_consultation.pdf.

The Green Perspective

Deutsche Umwelthilfe Launches Online Petition Drive For A German Plastic Bag Fee

Last week, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V. (DUH), a German environmental organization, launched an online petition drive to encourage German legislators to impose a fee on single-use plastic bags. However, at press time, less than 800 people had signed the petition.

DUH has also been trying to encourage German celebrities to support the campaign. So far, only two celebrities have signed on - writer/actor Hannes Jaenicke and singer/actress Inka Bause.

The petition and related information can be found at <https://ssl.duh.de/4414.html>.

Naturskyddsforeningen Releases Survey Of Hazardous Chemicals In Products In Swedish Pre-Schools

On Monday, the Swedish environmental organization Naturskyddsforeningen released results from a survey it conducted of products it found in 129 pre-schools in 41 Swedish municipalities.

Among the products found were soft plastic toys that could contain phthalates, electric toys that could contain harmful substances, products that are known to contain brominated flame retardants, stuffed toys whose fabrics could contain allergens, foods packaged in cans with bisphenol-A-containing linings, and vinyl changing table covers and PVC gloves that could contain phthalates.

In releasing the survey findings, Naturskyddsforeningen stated, "*This study shows that it is time to take the children's exposure to harmful chemicals seriously, in the form of more effective law and municipal enforcement. But there are also many things that can be done immediately to improve the situation in preschools.*"

It is noteworthy that Naturskyddsforeningen released its findings that same week the Swedish government announced a new program to remove toxic chemicals in products. (See article in this week's issue of [*Recycling Laws International*](#).)

Get more information at <http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/nyheter>.

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