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PA Extends Funding Recycling and tire cleanup programs benefit

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell signed House Bill 961 into law last month reauthorizing the state's municipal recycling and waste tires programs through 2020.

Launched in 1988, Pennsylvania's recycling program is funded by a "tipping fee" of \$2 per ton on all waste managed at municipal waste landfills and resource recovery facilities in the state. The fees generate approximately \$35 million each year to support municipal recycling programs that serve nearly 10 million residents.

In total, Pennsylvania recycles millions of tons of materials each year and reuse businesses annually generate more than \$20 billion in sales, which saves communities money on disposal

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EPA Rule Could Limit Tire Fuels

New regulatory proposals could redefine tire-derived-fuel (tdf) from a fuel to a solid waste

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued proposed rules on industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and solid waste incinerators aimed at cutting U.S. mercury emissions by more than half and also reducing other pollutants.

Published in the April 29 Federal Register, the proposed rules would, among other things, define some non-hazardous secondary materials as solid waste, which would require units that burned those materials to be defined under the Clean Air Act as solid waste incineration units. The Clean Air Act requires much stricter emissions controls on solid waste incineration units than it does on industrial boilers.

One of the materials that potentially could be redefined as solid waste is tire derived fuel. Currently, tdf-burning units are treated as industrial boilers under the Clean Air Act. This definition, however, has been under review since 2007, when the District of Columbia federal appeals court ruled that treating alternative-fuel-burning units as industrial boilers violated the plain intent of the Clean Air Act.

The proposed rule on solid waste incinerators would unequivocally classify whole tires as waste, which would severely affect the use of whole tires as supplemental fuel See EPA Rule page 3...

Nebraska Awards Tire Project Grants

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is awarding \$1 million in grant money to support fifty-two tire recycling and cleanup projects across the state.

The grants are part of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants program, which is administered by the DEQ. The grants support both the collection of scrap tires and the purchase of new tire-derived products.

For example, Elkhorn Public Schools was awarded \$81,462 to pay 25 percent of the cost of an artificial turf surface for the football/soccer field for Elkhorn South High School, using 312,500 pounds of crumb rubber made from recycled scrap tires. The department also awarded \$215,546 to 13 political subdivisions to conduct scrap tire collections this year. The grants will help clean up about 2,757 tons of scrap tires.

Doniphan-Trumbull Public School was awarded \$21,013.11 to pay 25 percent of the cost of an athletic running track surface using 80,242 pounds of crumb rubber made from recycled scrap tires.

Lexington Public Schools was awarded \$38,093 to pay 50 percent of the cost of 267,150 pounds of crumb rubber made from recycled scrap tires to be placed under playground structures throughout the school district.

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