

Industry Groups Post Objections To EPA Proposal

RMA, ISRI, TIA call for EPA to reconsider a proposal that would harm a viable scrap tire market

Three industry organizations with ties to the tire industry are among a growing list of objectors to a proposal change to the nation's waste rules.

The Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA), the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) - both Washington, D.C.- based - and the Tire Industry Association (TIA), Bowie, MD, have strongly urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to not adopt a rule change that would reclassify tire-derived-fuel (tdf) and other non-traditional, non-hazardous fuels as solid waste.

This means that any unit that burned these fuels would be

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MSB Tires Spruces Up With Rubber Mulch

Larry Brandt knows tires and tire rubber, or so he thought. Brandt helped build the Tires Plus line of retail stores from a five location company to 144 stores before selling the company in 2000.

In 2001, he started MSB Tires - a Tires Plus license that today operates seven stores, - six in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area and one in Iowa. The stores are 90 percent retail, 10 percent small car fleet sales. A lot of tires pass through Larry's doors - Bridgestone, Firestone, Falken, Yokohama, Michelin, BF Goodrich and Runway - both as new tire sales and returning as trade-ins. And Larry knows what happened to trade-ins - they get recycled - because that's part of the environmental footprint he set down as President of Tires Plus.

"As a licensee, we just continued that philosophy, handling our trade-in tires in an environmentally protective way onsite and using licensed collectors to take tires to be recycled," Brandt said. With all that, Larry Brandt walked right past recycled tire rubber at his own store in Savage, MN this summer and didn't recognize it.

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MSB Tires President Larry Brandt (l) and Liberty's Dick Gust check out the rubber mulch at the Tires Plus store in Savage, MN

California Report Evaluates State Tire Program

CalRecycle, officially known as the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery has worked closely with R.W. Beck, Inc. - its tire program contractor - and an industry advisory group for several months to prepare and refine a CA "Waste Tire Market Development Program Evaluation" contractor's report. Last month, CalRecycle held a half day workshop to give stakeholders a final opportunity to comment on the report. The final report, with stakeholder comments from the workshop will be published in early September. Recommendations will be included in discussions of the states Five Year Tire Plan, expected to commence in late 2010 and early 2011.

The lengthy (240 page) report provides one of the most comprehensive analysis of the programs to date. It includes proposals and market development projects ostensibly funded by the \$40 million generated annually from the fee on new tire sales.

The report starts out with a progress report noting that since 2000, the overall waste tire diversion rate had hovered at just over 70 percent, even as waste tire generation grew. At the same time, California enjoys a diverse market base in which California State programs have clearly played an important role, the report stated.

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