

OSWER POLICY DIRECTIVE NO. 9572.00-2

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FEB 22 1988

THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL STATE AND TERRITORIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSIONERS

Dear:

As discussed in several recent meetings with State and local officials and with the State/EPA Committee, the Administrator and I believe it is important to renew our efforts to develop strategies for management of municipal solid wastes. We particularly believe that statewide solid waste planning is an important step in assuring safe and adequate solid waste management capacity.

In this regard, I want to encourage you to review and, where appropriate, update your State's solid waste plan. In these plans, we believe States should identify a general strategy for protecting health and environment from adverse effects associated with solid waste disposal. I believe that the following areas warrant particular attention in solid waste management plans:

An indication of current and projected quantities and locations of solid wastes generated in the State

The expected future roles of source reduction, recycling, incineration/energy recovery, landfilling and/or other management approaches

A summary of key regulatory and permitting requirements which apply to solid waste management in your State

An indication of the role of the public and various political subdivisions in solid waste planning

The above and related information would be very helpful as we jointly develop a national perspective on solid waste management. To assist in this local-State-Federal effort, I would be interested in receiving the latest version of your plan, if available, in the next few months. I also would request that copies of plans be sent to the appropriate EPA Regional Offices.

I am aware that you have also been contacted in recent months by your regional EPA office and requested to certify compliance with Section 4005(c) (1) of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1986. This section requires States to develop and implement permit programs or other systems of prior approval for facilities which receive household hazardous waste and hazardous waste from small quantity generators. Many of you have responded, or are in the process of responding to this request, and we are grateful for your cooperation. This system, together with sound long-range planning, should help lead us toward more efficient and environmentally sound methods of handling solid waste in the future.

An enclosure to this letter lists a number of documents which may be of use when developing or revising your State solid waste plan. For your additional information, I am also enclosing a copy of a speech on solid waste management which I delivered January 29 at a conference sponsored by the Council of State Governments in New York City. The speech is similar to testimony I presented last December 3 before the Subcommittee on Toxic Substances of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Thanks very much for your help. Please let me know if EPA can provide any assistance in responding to this request.

Sincerely,

Original Document signed

J. Winston Porter
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR STATE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Guidelines for Development and Implementation of State Solid Waste Management Plans (40 CFR Part 256) - 44 FR 45066, July 31, 1979, amended at 46 FR 47051, September 23, 1981.

Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices (40 CFR Part 257) - 44 FR 53460, September 13, 1979; amended at 46 FR 47052, September 23, 1981.

Municipal Waste Combustion Study: Report to Congress, June 1987 (Available from NTIS - Publication No. PB87-206074).

Testimony of Dr. J. Winston Porter before the Subcommittee on Toxic Substances, Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works, December 3, 1987.