

Recycling Modernization Act: Commingled Recycling Processing Facility Technical Workgroup Meeting #5 Summary

Aug. 14, 2023: Noon to 3 p.m. PT



<p>Noon</p>	<p>Welcome, review agenda and meeting logistics Justin Gast opened the meeting with a warm welcome and went over the agenda for the meeting. A quick update was given regarding revisiting the capture rates discussion, which will happen in the September meeting when more data from the Outbound Commingled Recycling Study has been analyzed.</p>
<p>12:05 p.m.</p>	<p>Project updates Discussions with brokers regarding responsible end markets as well as material disposition requirements has been wrapped up. Still processing those conversations internally and will present in September how brokers will be addressed with respect to material disposition and responsible end markets requirements.</p> <p>Justin thanked the group for providing feedback regarding the phase-in date for the stricter performance standards and he shared that DEQ will look to make January 1, 2028 that new date, instead of the initially-proposed January 1, 2027 date. 1/01/2028 will mark the beginning of the new program plan period.</p>
<p>12:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Discussion – Performance standards (revisited) Before starting the discussion, Peter Spendelow with DEQ presented on initial results from the 2023 Inbound and Outbound Commingled Recycling studies and what types of materials are showing up in the inbound and outbound recycling streams as contamination. Only a few clarifying questions about the data were asked by the workgroup.</p> <p>Next, Justin shared DEQ’s preliminary thoughts regarding outbound bale contamination rates, with two sets of rates being proposed for July 1, 2025 (no more than 5% contamination) and January 1, 2028 (no more than 2%). Moisture content associated with fiber bales was also discussed. Clarification was given around DEQ’s thoughts for including moisture level requirements, which has to do with capture rates and the reality that wet fiber can be difficult to process, especially if the material is so wet, it’s degrading.</p> <p>A question was asked where the 5% and 2% contamination level numbers came from, and they came from data associated with past studies, plus conversations with industry experts. It was also the range that was given to Crowe to study. Justin made a point to remind the group that these numbers are not set in stone, and they can be adjusted based off data that will come from future assessments. Justin highlighted the various other mechanisms within RMA that will help reduce the amount of contamination entering the processing facilities as means to help the processors reach the 5% and 2% goals. Also, these performance standards are only for bales made from Uniform Statewide Collection List material.</p>

Translations or other formats

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	<p>A comment was shared with DEQ that even at some state-of-the-art processing facilities, who have no problem hitting a 5% outbound contamination rate or even slightly lower, reaching a 2% outbound contamination rate is difficult to do. In response, Justin shared that there is still time to adjust these numbers to be realistic, especially before the numbers go in front of the rulemaking advisory committee in November, and he reminded the group that feedback is welcomed at any time.</p>
1:00 p.m.	<p>Discussion – Generator facing contamination reduction Arianne Sperry with DEQ presented on the beginning stages of the generator facing contamination reduction efforts project. She went over the new obligations for DEQ, local governments and the commingled recycling processing facilities (the project will address ORS 459A.959, which is one of the requirements of the new permit program). Arianne also provided the definition of what “contamination” means within the RMA.</p> <p>Questions were posed to the group throughout the presentation, and the workgroup seemed positively responsive to the proposed contamination reduction efforts. The feedback from the workgroup included: focusing on the types of contamination that cause damage and/or have safety issues rather than having a general percentage reduction for all kinds of contaminants; use volumes rather than weight; and, any amount of reduction is a positive.</p>
1:50 p.m.	<p>Discussion – Responsible end markets – benchmarking certifications For this portion of the meeting, Nicole Portley with DEQ presented on the rule concepts and potential certifications for responsible end markets (REM) along with the PROs rules for REMs and how they relate to the commingled recycling processors. She talked about the intersecting point of the REM rules and performance standards for CRPFs and how that lies with the yield-capture rate. She provided two examples of how that could look for both mono-material bales and mixed material bales.</p> <p>Next, Nicole clarified the pre-steps that would need to be taken by a CRPF that wishes to send materials to non-mechanical recycling, and how there are mechanisms in place to reduce duplication in the REM certification process. Lastly, Nicole went over the benchmarking of third-party certifications against the REM standards and how those standards did. Based off DEQ’s decision tree for advancing a certification (shared in the February meeting), no entity currently exists that meets all of DEQ’s proposed criteria for such certifying bodies, thus PRO(s) will initially be responsible for verifying responsible end markets for CRPF/broker use.</p>
2:50 p.m.	<p>Public input There were no public comments.</p>
2:58 p.m.	<p>Next steps Justin will send the group all the background information they will need prior to the September meeting to give them adequate time to review. He shared some of the topics expected to be covered in September, such as a high-level look at the performance standards assessment process; a discussion about invoicing options associated with the Contamination Management Fee (a white paper of the invoicing options will be distributed to workgroup members before the meeting) and what disposition reporting will look like with respect to brokers. A question was asked by a workgroup member when the Crowe report will be ready, and DEQ is anticipating that the October technical workgroup meeting is where the preliminary results will be shared.</p>
3:00 p.m.	<p>Adjourn</p>

All times shown are estimates and are subject to adjustments to meet the needs of DEQ and workgroup members. The Workgroup may also be joined by one or more guests for discussions of specific topics.

For more information, contact Justin Gast, Materials Management or visit the [Commingled Recycling Processing Facilities web page](#)