



P2
Quarterly

The Newsletter of Lee
County's Pollution
Prevention Program

Summer 2005

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Farewell Words from Sara Leggett

As I prepare to leave my position at Lee County, I remember back to the first inspection I did. I was nervous about walking into a place that didn't know I was coming and then telling them "I'm with the county and I'm here to help." Sometimes I was greeted friendly, sometimes rude, and then again sometimes I was told where the water meter was located.

There were the good business owners, not good because their shop was immaculate, but classified as good because they were willing to listen to what I had to say and concerned enough to do the right thing. You know who you are; you are the ones who are probably reading this. I want to thank you for caring enough about our beautiful Lee County to place your used oil *IN* the drum not *ON* it. (Or for going out after reading this and labeling your drum "USED OIL").

Then of course I ran into the bad business owners, the ones who walked away during my introduction or, as one man did, yelled out from his office that he didn't want to volunteer in our program. Or those who wanted to fight me to the end over a rule I had no part in creating, just relaying it to help you become compliant. I hope you have decided to change your ways and are taking the time to read this newsletter. Now go put the lid on the waste thinner, evaporation is **not** a disposal method.

At times during my four and a half years driving around Lee County I felt like the light bulb police, but if learning that fluorescent lights contain mercury is all you got out of my visit, it's better than nothing. One more time for the record: "Fluorescent lights can not go into your dumpster, put them back in the box they came in, label it 'Mercury containing lamps destined for recycling' and have a hauler take them away or use one of our collection days, then keep the receipt for **three years on site.**"

As I began returning to businesses that I had previously inspected, it was a great feeling to see a business owner make the changes I suggested. The majority of the places I visited needed better "housekeeping". For instance, one woman remembered my first visit and was so excited to show me all the improvements they had made. She had pride in her facility; just think how that carries over into other aspects of her job. So for all the messy shops out there: Just clean up before it builds up!

Now that I am leaving there are going to be new inspectors coming to visit. Treat them with respect and always remember we ARE here to help you.

Dorian Cauceglia is one of the inspectors you may see out and about. He has recently joined our team. His past experience was with Perma-Fix, a hazardous waste facility in Orlando. He worked as a Chemist dealing with all sorts of great waste streams. Chances are he saw yours. He also graduated from UCF with a degree in Chemistry. As always, you don't have to wait for a visit, you can call and set one up, (239) 479-8148.

Do you need a speaker for an upcoming event? Would you like a specialized presentation for your next trade association meeting? Give us a call to schedule a time for your next educational needs. Lee County's Pollution Prevention Program has performed presentations in several parts of the country as well as Canada and Mexico. We are here to serve our business community. Just call 479-8126.

Rethinking Our Thinking

With new technology there comes new waste. In the last 10 years technology has changed so quickly. It went from a few homes owning computers to homes having one or more computer systems. Then there are the businesses. Every desk in just about every office has a computer, and they are always being replaced. Then there are the cell phones; they have exploded in popularity in the last 10 years. Just think about all the electronics you use or come into contact with every day.

Now comes the problem of what is the correct way to dispose of the old electronics, i.e. old computers, TVs, cell phones, vcr's, etc, that you do not want anymore. If you read one of our previous newsletters it told you all about e-waste. (Electronic waste) E-Waste cannot go into the regular trash. You can't just set it at the curb and think it will go away forever. E – waste has heavy metals in the circuit boards and cathode ray tubes; lead, cadmium and mercury are a few. These heavy metals remain in the environment forever.

Fortunately for the conscious consumer there are becoming more and more options for you. You can purchase from most of the main manufacturers and they will provide a buy back initiative or recycle them for free. When you go to make your next purchase that may be a question that you would ask the salesperson. The power of the consumer pushes manufacturers to change.

A new partnership network has been created on the website EBay called “Rethink”. This website is very informative. It goes through step-by-step how you can get rid of electronic waste correctly, (sell, donate, recycle) and it links you directly to what you decide to choose. The website has a “frequently asked questions” section that is full of information. It is a partnership between several companies that know how important the environment is and how it is being negatively affected by careless waste disposal. “Rethink” is a terrific name for this initiative. Soon it will be the only way we can afford to think about this type of evolving waste stream. <http://ebay.com/rethink>

Fuel That Smells Like French Fries

Biodiesel is a vegetable oil based fuel that is beginning to gain in popularity. With Florida surrounded by water and boating being a large part of recreation, an alternative fuel is definitely needed. Recreational boats consume about 95 million gallons of diesel fuel annually (www.biodiesel.com). A story in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel by Michael Turnbell describes how biodiesel is going to become readily available as word spreads about the benefits. Broward county Water Taxi uses biodiesel. Owner Bob Bekhoff is quoted as saying” We have experienced performance similar to petroleum diesel, but have found less engine wear and tear because of biodiesel increased lubricity and easier boat clean up because there is less soot.”

Benefits of Biodiesel:

- 100% vegetable oil based
- Huge landfill reduction: the fryer oil from restaurants can be used and in Lee county there are many restaurants!
- Reduces landfill emissions
- Reduces tailpipe emissions
- Reduces visible smoke & noxious odors
- Non-toxic, biodegradable, non-flammable: High flash point (300 °F)
- Handling & storage safer then conventional petroleum diesel fuel
- Can be used in existing engine with little or no modifications
- Extend engine life because of superior lubricating properties
- Zero total emissions, reduces greenhouse gases
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Carbon dioxide
 - Hydrocarbons (ozone forming)
 - Sulfur dioxide (acid rain)
 - Diesel particulates (hazardous)
- Delivers similar torque, horsepower, and miles per gallon as regular diesel

www.biodiesel.com and www.biodiesel.org are two informative websites about biodiesel. The later of the two has information about a tax incentive to use this fuel. If your business has a large fleet you may want to consider switching to biodiesel. It's better for your equipment and your environment.

Did Your Facility's Storage Plan Work?

Hopefully the facility where you operate was not too terribly damaged this past hurricane season. The important question that needs to be asked is, did the plan for the facility's storage of hazardous waste/materials work? If not, what went wrong and what steps have been taken to correct the situation? The official beginning to hurricane season is June 1 and runs through November 30. Now is the time to work out any problems you may have had with the plan and/or system of storage and containment of hazardous waste/material!

There should be no unprotected outside storage of any containers that store hazardous waste and/or material. If the material is flammable or the waste is ignitable, and they are stored in metal containers, make sure the containers are grounded. Proper labeling on all storage containers and storage areas/rooms should also be placed and visible to any emergency responders.

Official Notice

Under sections 403.7234 and 403.7225 (16) Florida Statutes (FS), Lee County is required to perform the Notification, Assessment and Verification Program. The FS requires Lee County to notify potential generators (businesses) of hazardous waste about their legal responsibilities to manage their hazardous waste. The FS also requires that 20% of the generators be verified in the field as to their operations and handling of their hazardous waste. This means every business that is identified, as a potential generator of hazardous waste should be field assessed at least every five years.

Counties throughout Florida have approached these requirements in

different formats. Some require operational permits along with the occupational license, some perform the program utilizing an ordinance system that the County can levy fines for non-compliance, while some have contracted with Regional Planning Councils to comply with the FS. Lee County adopted the FS by resolution that allowed them to start assessing the \$20.00 per occupational license of potential hazardous waste generators to fund the operational requirements of the FS. With this funding, the delegated program, Lee County's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program (formally known as Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program) has been performing this mandated FS since 1989.

Lee County's P2 Program does not site or collect penalties from businesses due to non-compliance. The main goal of the P2 Program is to meet the FS and assist businesses with the many regulatory requirements that they may have. Once the facility has been assessed, information and cost saving P2 technology relating to the operations is supplied to the business as an assistance tool for complying with State and Federal regulations.

If you have received this newsletter, then you are paying the \$20.00 surcharge attached to the occupational license Lee County issued to you. You are also known as a potential generator of hazardous waste and may be required to perform other duties to comply with hazardous waste regulations. If you are not sure of all the legal requirements pertaining to operations and hazardous waste management, please contact the P2 Program office @ (239)-479-8126 to schedule an on-site assessment.

This newsletter serves as official notice.

Hazardous Waste Determination

All facilities that generate waste are required under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to determine which waste streams are hazardous wastes. Specifically, Chapter 40 of the Codes of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 261 of RCRA is where you'll find the listed and characteristics for hazardous waste. This is critical for compliance issues associated with the operations that occur onsite. There are two acceptable ways to determine the waste streams regulatory requirements. The first and least expensive is product knowledge of the material utilized in the process that generated the waste. The review of material safety data sheets that reveal the characteristics of the material should provide enough information to make the determination. The four characteristics that determine a hazardous waste are: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity and toxicity. The following is the definitions for the four characteristics:

Ignitability- The waste material (solid, liquid or gas) must have a flashpoint of less than 140 degrees and/or be aqueous solution with an alcohol content greater than or equal to 24%. Examples are solvents, paint thinners, and oxidizers.

Corrosivity- The waste material must be a liquid and have a pH of less than 2.0 or greater than 12.5. Examples are acids and caustics.

Reactivity- The waste material is reactive to water, shock, heat, and pressure, and undergoes a rapid or violent chemical reaction. Examples are perchlorates, peroxides and cyanides.

Toxicity- This category includes eight heavy metals and thirty-one organic chemicals, including ten pesticides. Waste in this category need only contain very small amounts of arsenic, lead, mercury, or one of the other heavy metals, or organics such as benzene, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, vinyl chloride methyl ethyl ketone or any one of the ten pesticides.

The second acceptable method for determining if a waste material is regulated as a hazardous waste is through sample testing performed by a certified laboratory. This method is usually required when not enough information is available for many different reasons, to make the determination from product knowledge.

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The reason the determination of waste is crucial to compliance requirements is because the amount of hazardous waste a facility generates by calendar month (not averages) dictates the facility status and the rules they must comply with. These categories are located in 40 CFR Part 262, except for CESQG, which is found in 40 CFR Part 261.5

There are three generator categories that are regulated. They are as follows:

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG): In any one month a CESQG generates no more than 220 pounds, or less than 2.2 pounds of an acute hazardous waste (arsenic and cyanide compounds) and never accumulates more than 2200 pounds of hazardous waste.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG): In any one month a SQG generates more than 220 pounds but less than 2200 pounds.

Large Quantity Generator (LQG): In any one month a LQG generates more than 2200 pounds and/or more than 2.2 pounds of an acute hazardous waste.

With each category there are specific requirements that pertain to the management of the hazardous waste. These requirements must be followed to ensure compliance is achieved. The larger the category of the facility, the more regulatory requirements the facility must comply with. If you are not sure what category your facility is in, contact us and we can help assess the waste streams. Once this step is completed we can also help with the specific requirements for the facility's category to help ensure minimum compliance for the facility. The cost for this service is paid by the surcharge attached to the facility's occupational license.

**The CESQG Business
Collection Day Schedule
Sponsored by :
Lee County's
Department of Solid Waste
(Disposal Fee Involved)**

**July 21, 2005
September 29, 2005**

Collection times for the CESQG scheduled events are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location of the CESQG collection day is North Airport Road at Page Field. Scheduled collection days and times are subject to change and/or cancelations, depending on inclement weather. *There is a fee involved for disposal.* If you have any questions regarding the associated fees, please contact US Liquids of Florida directly at 1-800-624-5302.

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