

June 2006 P2 Conference Call
15 June 2006

1. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Sustainable Landscaping – Susan Michaud, 865 576-1562, sun@ornl.gov

The Laboratory developed its Conceptual Landscape Plan and Design Guidelines in 2003 to create a campus rather than industrial feeling about the buildings and grounds, facilitate navigation around the campus while creating pedestrian paths that discouraged jaywalking, and promote the Laboratory's mission by developing attractive outdoor seating areas that facilitate communication. The Guidelines called for landscaping that requires low energy use and minimal intervention and provides long term solutions while reinforcing the Laboratory's environmental goals.

Stemming from these guidelines, the Laboratory removed invasive plants and is landscaping with native trees, road friendly trees, plants that are self-seeding and do not require pruning, porous paving that acts as a natural filter to protect groundwater, and recycled materials. Gray water is used for irrigation. All these activities supported LEEDs certification for four buildings.

2. Sanitary Effluent Reclamation Facility (SERF) at Los Alamos National Laboratory – Steven Hanson, hanson@lanl.gov

The Sanitary Effluent Reclamation Facility (SERF) is designed to further treat sanitary effluent from the Laboratory's domestic wastewater treatment facility so that it can be used in cooling towers for the supercomputing facility. Construction began in 2002 and operations began in March 2005. Due to funding shortages, the SERF is currently not in use. While functioning, it treated 10 million gallons of water; it has the capacity to treat about 50 million gallons a year. Efforts are underway to establish new uses for the facility to aid the Laboratory in achieving its zero discharge goal and address water shortage problems in the county.

3. Savannah River Site R-Basin Remediation – John Harley, 803-557-6332, John.Harley@srs.gov

Vegetation removal, chipping, and composting with on-site disposal was the selected remedy for an approximately 13-acre former water seepage basin that had been overtaken by trees and other growth. Because the chipping and composting reduced the volume of the contaminated waste (by about 50%) and the probability of subsidence, the State agreed to the remedy and allowed on site disposal with an asphalt/concrete cap. Total remedy costs were \$725,000; with on-site disposal the site avoided an estimated \$3.9 million in shipment and disposal costs.

4. New EH Guidance for Tritium Intervention Levels – Gus Vasquez, (202-586-7629; gustavo.vazquez@eh.doe.gov).

On 11 April 2006, EH issued guidance on deriving intervention levels for tritium contaminated crops and animal feed for DOE emergency planning and response activities. The guidance spells out the process the Department used to determine that within 8 days of a tritium release its activity level in crops has been reduced to acceptable and safe levels. The document is available at http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/guidance/aea/tritium_dil_guidance.pdf.

5. Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) – Jeff Eagan, 202 586-4598
Jeff.Eagan@hq.doe.gov

Jeff announced that the FEC website at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/P2/fec.html> has been rejuvenated and encouraged sites to consider joining the FEC. The electronics recycling information required for the EO 13148 report matches that of the FEC so FEC membership does not impose a new reporting burden. Thirteen DOE sites are now FEC members.

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is now on line at <http://www.epeat.net>. The system rates computers and monitors on 45 environmental indicators; within a few weeks the website should be featuring electronic products that scored bronze, silver, or gold rankings. A training teleconference on EPEAT is scheduled for Tuesday, 20 June from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon (EDT). Please register at epeatrsvp@nerc.org. Additional EPEAT training teleconferences are planned for July and August.

The Federal Electronics Recycling and Reuse Challenge (FERRC) will be repeated in FY2007 although the name and some of the requirements may change. The start and end dates will likely be mid-November 2006 and mid-March 2007.

6. EH Updates – Jane Powers, 202 586-7301, Jane.Powers@hq.doe.gov

The P2 reporting database is being revised and will have two databases. The P2 Performance database includes sections on site profile, accomplishments, recycling, and waste generation. The EPP database has site profile, FEC, and alternative fuel station sections. There will be a 15-day pilot of the system in August before it goes final October 1.

Changes to M231.1-1A, Environment, Safety and Health Reporting, to incorporate O 450.1, Change 2 will be made when the manual goes final (it is still in review). The Manual will not include the new P2 performance measures; they will be included in the P2 data entry guidance.

EH has funds that can be used for travel or training activities so contact Jane with P2 and environmental stewardship ideas or needs you have identified. Topical areas could include activities such as incorporating P2 in the EMS, enhancing EPP programs, developing an FEC activity, and training in pollution prevention opportunity assessment or high performance sustainable buildings (with EE).