

**2012 Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Annual Meeting
Cross-Media Committee
Inland Empire Paper Company Talking Points
Tuesday, August 28, 2012**

Industry challenges for meeting PCB water quality standards:

- I. **Background:** (Opening Slide #1)
 - a. In the pulp & paper industry, IEP is extraordinary and an exemplary example of “green” manufacturing:
 - i. Use processes that do not generate the typical P & P odors
 - ii. Use waste products as our raw material supply
 - iii. Beneficially reuse waste materials generated by the mill as resources to produce commodities such as energy, cement and compost
 - iv. Produce “green energy” from biomass
 - v. Reduced our natural gas consumption by 75% and our carbon footprint by over 30,000 tpy with new technology installed 2 years ago
 - vi. Minor source in 2011
 - vii. Faced with meeting some of the most stringent effluent limits in U.S.
 - viii. Developing cutting edge technologies for wastewater treatment using algae. 1st biological tertiary treatment technology for nutrient removal
 - b. It is evident that we pride ourselves on our environmental stewardship
 - c. However, our future, the future of other mills, and the future of paper recycling is in jeopardy due to a regulatory paradox

- II. **PCB Paradox:** (Slide #2)
 - a. IEP does not produce or generate PCB’s, however we have end-of-pipe responsibility for an outside source of PCB’s that is allowed thru Federal regulations
 - b. The Code of Federal Regulations determines that “PCB concentrations of 50 ppm or greater present an unreasonable risk to human health”.
 - c. And these same Federal regulations through the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) still allow manufactured products to contain PCB levels up to 50 ppm.
 - d. Because of this provision, we are receiving PCB’s with the inks that are used on the paper that we are recycling as a raw material.
 - e. This is not an issue that is isolated to the pulp & paper industry, as these same pigments are widely used in paints, dyes and hundreds of other daily products
 - f. (Slide #3) However, other Federal regulations through the NTR subject dischargers to a WQS that is over 700 million times lower than what they are allowing in products (and what has been determined to be an unreasonable risk to human health)
 - g. The paradox here is that Federal regulations are responsible for the source of PCB contaminants coming into our facility, but then subject our facility to an end-of-pipe standard that is nearly 700 million times lower.

III. Ramifications:

- a. There are currently no technologies available to achieve any of these WQS
- b. The elimination of recycling is our only viable option
- c. U.S. sets a record nearly every year for paper recycling
- d. This milestone was reached again in 2011 with over 65% of all paper manufactured in the U.S. being recycled
- e. Similar circumstance will likely impact the balance of our industry, resulting in the elimination or significant reduction of recycling in our country
- f. If we eliminate or greatly reduce recycling, we have not solved the problem:
 - i. Put into landfill, it still exists
 - ii. Incineration, opportunity to disperse into the atmosphere

IV. Solution:

- a. The best solution with the most immediate impact is the elimination of this source of PCB's that continues to enter our environment
- b. Transferring the cost to others and willfully allowing the continued contamination of our environment is not a solution

V. Conclusion:

- a. We supposedly eliminated the manufacture and distribution of PCB's in 1978, but here we are discussing a source that we have allowed to continue to contaminate our environment for over 30 years.
- b. The purpose of ECOS is to improve the capability of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment of the United States of America
- c. Therefore as a matter of duty and responsibility, we respectfully request that this Committee take appropriate action to protect human health and the environment by insisting on regulatory change to create "PCB-free" products.
- d. After 30 years of inaction, I am concerned that if we do not act now, while the Federal regulations governing PCB's are under review, we will have lost our window of opportunity to spur positive change in our lifetimes.