

RCRA Docket Information Center  
Office of Solid Waste (5305W)  
US EPA  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

October 4, 2001

Re: Docket No. F-2000-UWMP-FFFF  
May 22, 2000 Federal Register  
Hazardous Waste Manifest System,  
Proposed Rule

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) is writing to comment on EPA's proposed Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest Regulations. NEWMOA's member-state hazardous waste program directors fully support EPA's efforts to create one standard manifest form that will be useable in all states and appreciate this opportunity to comment on EPA's draft. They also recognize the difficulties that EPA faces in addressing the broad range of stakeholder interests that must be reconciled in this rulemaking. Accordingly, NEWMOA is commenting on several key issues that all of its member-states consider important to preserving the value of the manifest as an essential component of the "cradle to grave" regulatory scheme. Examples include: provisions for printing the manifest, retaining the site identification box along with the mailing address, providing an 8-part form, and scaling back plans for the introduction of an electronic manifest. Individual NEWMOA member-states are also planning to submit more detailed comments in addition to concurring with the state-consensus points provided below.

NEWMOA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, interstate association that has a membership composed of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup and pollution prevention directors from the environmental agencies in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NEWMOA was established by the Governors of the New England states as an official regional organization to coordinate hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention activities and was formally recognized by the U.S. EPA in 1986. One of NEWMOA's priorities is facilitating communication among its member states and between states and federal agencies concerning regulatory and policy issues involving solid and hazardous waste.

Manifest Acquisition The NEWMOA states prefer that control of the manifest printing and numbering process remain with the states. They are not aware of any particular problems for stakeholders arising from this long-standing practice. If EPA does decide to allow parties that register with it to print manifests then NEWMOA's states feel strongly that EPA should firmly commit to assigning specific blocks of numbers, ensuring compliance with these assignments, and providing the relevant form and printing information to states on a timely and continuing basis.

An Eight Part Manifest The manifest should not be limited to 6 parts. The two additional copies are for the generator to mail to the generator state and the destination state. Several NEWMOA states rely on these copies to cross-check on waste movements and for inventory

purposes. In addition, the back of the manifests could list states that collect manifests and their mailing addresses or could list a nationwide telephone number and website that would provide this information.

International Shipments The NEWMOA states agree with EPA's proposal to provide a space for import/export activities. However, the space provided in the proposed manifest appears to be unnecessarily large. By compressing the box more space could be provided on the form for site addresses and discrepancies.

In addition, the reason for providing an additional space for a transporter to sign the manifest a second time when a shipment crosses the border is unclear. Removing the extra signature space would free space for other information.

Emergency Response Phone Numbers The NEWMOA states agree that emergency response phone numbers, including the Federal National Response Center phone number, should be included on the manifest. However, the numbers do not need to be as large as they currently appear on the draft nor do they need to be at the top of the form.

Retention of Site Address The NEWMOA states believe strongly that the site address, in addition to the mailing address, has always been and remains an important feature of the manifest. States have several important compliance and enforcement reasons for urging EPA to retain Item B that are provided in their detailed comments.

Waste Code System The NEWMOA states support the increased space for both state and federal waste codes and the hierarchy of waste codes.

Automation of the Manifest System While the NEWMOA states applaud EPA's efforts to develop an electronic system they are seriously concerned that the proposed plans underestimate the state time and resources that would be required for its implementation, and the costs for smaller generators. The gradual phase-in of a voluntary program is recommended as an alternative.

In closing, NEWMOA's member-state regulatory officials and staff wish to thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important and worthwhile effort. We applaud the good work that you have completed and look forward to working with you through the final rulemaking and implementation phases. Please feel free to contact me at 617-367-8558, ext. 301 if you have any questions or I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

William F. Cass  
Executive Director