

## Document Log

| From   |  | To  |  |
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| Subject  |  | Date/Time   |  |
| Question from OMB on C2P2  |  | 05/17/2010 06:05 PM                                 |  |

## Document Body

Bob, we received an question from OMB regarding what we were going to do with EPA staff/\$\$ that went in to supporting the C2P2 partnership. Per our last discussion with the Administrator on this, we put the EPA on hold with the C2P2 partnership and that hold is what generated the OMB question. A draft of this response was already shared with OMB staff but wanted to get your input before we finalized.

Nick Hart's Questions:

Could you please ask OSWER to provide details on what their plans are for the C2P2 program. I understand this is currently being re-evaluated by the Administrator's office. The response to the CCR Q&As posted online today suggests the program has been suspended. Please clarify what this entails; whether EPA is still supportive of C2P2 and what the plans are to recast this program (assuming the options meeting has been held). Also, given that this program has already been suspended, can you ask OSWER to provide specific details on how the staff and resources dedicated to this program will be retasked. Thanks.

Here's the Q&A from the CCR website for reference:

### **30. What is the status of EPA's Coal Combustion Products Partnership (C2P2) program which supports the beneficial use of coal ash?**

While EPA is engaged in the rulemaking process for coal combustion residuals, the Agency has suspended active participation in the Coal Combustion Products Partnership. EPA continues to believe that the beneficial use of residuals from coal combustion, when performed properly and in an environmentally safe manner, is beneficial to the environment and EPA is not proposing to modify the existing Bevill exemption for coal ash when beneficially used. EPA is interested in broadening the dialogue on beneficial uses and encourages all interested parties to review and provide comments and any relevant information and data on the proposed rule.

<http://www.epa.gov/coalashrule/ccrfaq.htm#30>

### **OSWER Response:**

As reflected in the question/response copied above from the CCR proposal website, EPA is suspending active participation in the Coal Combustion Products Partnership (C2P2) while engaged in this rulemaking. EPA has posted a banner to this effect at the C2P2 website, <http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/c2p2/index.htm> This means that EPA will not be *involved*

*in recruiting* new partners to the C2P2 program or adding any additional information to the C2P2 website.

*However*, EPA continues to believe that the beneficial use of residuals from coal combustion, when performed properly and in an environmentally safe manner, is beneficial to the environment ***and should be encouraged***. EPA has not proposed to modify the current regulatory status of CCRs when beneficially used. During the suspension of the C2P2 program, the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery's (ORCR) Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division (RCSD) staff and managers that had been supporting C2P2 will ***continue to support the Agency's position on beneficial use of CCRs through other non-C2P2 program activities, including the Construction Initiative, EPA's Green Building Program, and the Green Roads & Highways Program (Information on these programs are found below)***. ***In addition, it will also be involved*** in the review and analysis of comments, data, and information received in response to the beneficial use aspects of the CCR proposal, ***once the comments are received***.

- The **Construction Initiative** (CI) is a collaborative, public-private sector effort to increase the recycling and beneficial use of industrial materials in building and transportation construction projects across the nation. It is not a partnership program. Industrial materials include coal combustion products, foundry sand, scrap tires, iron and steel slags, pulp and paper byproducts, and construction & demolition materials. Through the CI, RCSD increases awareness of the potential value and unique abilities of industrial materials to replace virgin materials in numerous construction applications. RCSD will continue to collaborate with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Industrial Resources Council (IRC), and other stakeholders to provide technical assistance to individuals and organizations interested in using industrial materials in their construction projects. Other key activities RCSD will continue include development of a materials mapping tool, educational webinar series, case studies, and an updated website.
- **EPA's Green Building Program**. RCSD is the OSWER lead on this cross-Agency Program which develops, reviews and influences standards or specifications. RCSD has been actively supporting the Agency's Green Building Strategy and associated activities by providing comments on these draft standards and ensuring they included use of recycled-content and beneficial use, including use of fly ash, silica fume, or other supplementary cementitious materials as cement replacements. RCSD will continue to ensure that the national green building standards (ASHRAE, ASTM, LEED, NAHB) include beneficial use of materials.
- **Green Roads & Highways** represents EPA's ongoing collaboration with the FHWA to foster sustainable transportation by encouraging the beneficial use of materials in the design of highways and roadways. Specifically, RCSD provides educational and technical assistance to builders of these highways that incorporate key sustainability principles, including beneficial use of materials to eliminate waste, reduce the energy required, and reduce GHG emissions. RCSD will continue to invest and educate numerous stakeholders that coal ash has been successfully beneficially used for concrete pavement for decades; is a readily available industrial material, and is widely approved by state environmental and transportation officials. RCSD, in coordination

with several EPA Regions, will continue to actively work with state environmental agencies, transportation officials, the U.S. FHWA, the Associated General Contractors of America, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, and others--- to encourage beneficial use of materials (including coal ash) in highway and road construction.]

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