
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2002
TO: USCC Board of Directors
FROM: Ron Alexander, USCC Market Development Committee & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO
RE: Update from the AAPFCO Midyear meeting

Uniform Bills Committee

On Wednesday, August 7, the AAPFCO's Uniform Bills Committee met to continue its work on the re-write of the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill, which the USCC is co-sponsoring along with the Mulch & Soil Council (MSC). Since many new individuals attended this meeting, and since we are seeking a new direction (away from the Compost Bill), representatives of both the USCC and MSC reviewed the overall need for creating a means to properly label and regulate compost, and other soil amendments that contain nutrients. Discussion ensued and an AAPFCO Official from Wisconsin suggested that the Committee should take one more look at making some simple (minimal) modifications to the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill before we continue efforts on the creation of a wholly new version of the Bill. A suggestion was made that perhaps an allowance could be made within the Uniform Soil Amendment and Fertilizer Bills to allow for an 'informational note' to be placed on compost product labels. This would allow a label statement that this product 'contains incidental (innate) nutrients which should be accounted for when used'. This informational note could also allow composters to state the maximum nutrient (N-P-K) levels in their product. Coming at the Bill from this direction, we would try to make minimal changes to the overall (current) Bill. I am uncertain if this is realistically possible, however, it is worthwhile to try.

Following this discussion, a vote was taken to 'formally' halt efforts towards the development of a separate Uniform Compost Bill - in favor of reworking the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill in some way. A Working Group was formed to work on a new Draft Uniform Soil Amendment Bill which will be presented at the AAPFCO winter meeting (February). The Working Group contains 8 participants, 4 from industry and 4 AAPFCO Officials. Both the USCC and MSC will sit on this Working Group.

Environmental Affairs Committee

On Tuesday, August 6, the Environmental Affairs Committee's met to discuss primarily two issues; dioxins in AAPFCO regulated products and possible FDA warning statements on poultry litter used as animal feed. It was also reported at the onset of the meeting that an error was identified by The Fertilizer Institute in SUIP #25. This error, and pursuant modification, was considered to be 'substantive' in nature by the AAPFCO Board. This correction does not affect compost, only blended fertilizers. As such, the Board voted to keep the SUIP in a 'tentative' status to allow further review. Based on AAPFCO by-laws, the SUIP must now remain in tentative status until the August 2003 meeting.

To assist in the discussions regarding the risk of dioxins and furans in AAPFCO regulated products, Synagro (a USCC member) sponsored a dioxin expert (Dr. Richard Anderson) to speak at the meeting and to provide background information on the subject. This *powerpoint* presentation can be forwarded to the USCC, if desired. The Environmental Affairs Committee was appreciative of the new data, but decided that it will wait for dioxin data being collected in California before it decides on whether it should development a SUIP pertaining to dioxins/furans in fertilizers, soil amendments and liming agents.

The final subject on the agenda was a discussion of the ramifications of possible FDA warning statements on poultry litter used as animal feed, because of concerns surrounding BSE. Although the sale of poultry litter as animal feed has declined, and is no longer a favored utilization option for the by-product, several AAPFCO officials are concerned that it could then effect the ability to land apply the material on fields where animal graze (ruminants). This issue could be relevant to specific USCC members. The Committee agreed to monitor this situation, to see if the FDA requires the warning label, before taking any specific action.