

**Draft Summary of the NEPSI Infrastructure Subgroup Conference Call
November 20, 2001
3:00-4:30 PM EST**

Members in Attendance:

David White, Nokia	Lynn Rubinstein, NERC
Frank Coolick, NJ DEP	Dana Silverberg, NJ DEP
Lorraine Graves, EPA Reg 2	Reggie Caudill, NJIT
Gary Davis, CCP	Ed Nevins, JVC
Scott Klag, Metro Portland	Julie Rhodes, ReDO
Butch Teglas, Philips	Lisa Collins, DMC
Scott Cassel, PSI	Chris Beling, EPA Reg. 1
Merry Rankin, IDNR	Wayne Rifer, WEPSI
Retika Motwane, ERG (recorder)	

PARTICIPANTS: PLEASE NOTE ESPECIALLY THE ASSIGNMENTS SECTION AT THE END.

The participants of the NEPSI Infrastructure Subgroup met via conference call on November 20, 2001, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM EST. This document briefly summarizes the major topics covered during the subgroup's discussions, and highlights agreements that were reached. The Meeting Notes from the Nov. 8-9 meeting were approved.

Introductions and Meeting Attendees

A question was asked about whether the meetings should be limited to subgroup members, or whether other interested persons could attend. It was discussed that the critical issues are to keep a manageable-sized group so the members can participate fully, and to assure a balance of stakeholders. It was decided that anyone who would like to participate may do so, whether or not they attend Stakeholder Group meetings as observers and meet with the Subgroup in person. Wayne and Gary and Cat will assess the Subgroup for size and balance if it becomes an issue.

Discussion of Charge to the Subgroup

It was discussed that the collection, reuse and recycling infrastructure needed to provide incentives for DfE and to encourage development of markets for recycling electronics materials back into new electronics products. These issues were not made explicit in the subgroup charge. This could be integrated into infrastructure issues because product could be sent back to the manufacturer, thus providing direct information about product design. It was noted that product design issues are part of a Workshop to be held at the next NEPSI meeting.

Some additions were suggested to the charge posed to the subgroup:

- For the existing infrastructure, there should be identification of existing reuse and remanufacturing capacity.
- For reuse, both existing and future, there should be some discussion of access to operating software and licensing barriers.

- For costs of recycling, there should be some emphasis on the development of markets for recycled materials, particularly for expanded use by electronics OEMs in new products.

NERC is starting a study of the economic sustainability of electronics reuse markets, to be completed early next fall.

Current Situation

The participants discussed the best methods to answer the questions posed to the subgroup, especially those relative to the existing status of the collection/reuse and recycling infrastructure. The subgroup agreed that, given the time restraints, definitive, quantitative answers on the current situation would not be possible. Rather, the subgroup would review existing data sources and provide references, or “pointers”, to the information, data, and studies that address the questions on Current Situation in the work plan. This might be in the form of an annotated bibliography.

There was discussion of how existing sources of data on current e-recyclers, such as are available on several web sites, have out-of-date listings. NERC recently did a study of e-recycling operations in the NY State area and found that almost 30% of the companies listed on the national web-based directories of electronics recyclers were either out of business or did not handle electronics for recycling. They also found that the electronics recycling companies are geographically focused in industrial areas and along interstate highway corridors

Lynn Rubinstein offered to provide the group with the scope and possible cost of such a study that could be done nationally. This may be an important issue in implementation.

The best sources of data nationally on electronics disposal and recovery are the NSC report and the new Franklin study. Gary will write up a summary of these reports and post it on the NEPSI website.

The participants concluded that existing capacity for reuse and recycling will be hard to quantify. The group agreed that it should instead focus on qualitative assessments of capacity for recycling and reuse in specific regions. A request was made for all participants to compile data sources and references, along with notes on the sources, to contribute to the annotated bibliography for a qualitative analysis.

Future System

The subgroup participants discussed how to go about defining a “vision” for the future system of collection, reuse, and recycling. The group agreed on the idea of setting up a matrix for evaluating the pros and cons of different infrastructure models, and for asking questions about the models.

It was mentioned that it would be desirable to have data on the costs associated with different infrastructure models. The group discussed the possibility of gathering such data using a computer model created by the Polymer Alliance Zone as a project for the Recycling Summit of IAER. Modeling is being done by SAIC. The model was originally created for NE recyclers to

make business decisions, but it is being expanded to answer questions about a system of collection, transport, reuse and recycling. It uses Stella software to track data such as the flow of e-scrap, costs, recycling points, end-use points, the value of secondary materials, etc. The same model can be adapted for different regions. Some subgroup participants suggested that the model (or one like it) could provide an estimate of costs and revenues, as well as the opportunity to do “what if” analyses. It needs to be made user friendly in order for others to apply it. This model would be available by early next year.

The functions of other Recycling Summit projects, defined at the Summit following EPR2 in 2001, was mentioned. In addition to the recycling model group (of which Wayne and Patty are members) they have groups on:

- Information dissemination and communication
- R&D needs (Reggie is a member)
- Regulations

The need for the infrastructure subgroup to work closely with the finance subgroup was reiterated.

The analysis of existing and proposed model systems was discussed. A set of questions for each will be developed by a sub-subgroup of Patty, Chris, Julie and Wayne. These will be compiled from the NEPSI desired attributes, the posed questions, and the other questions asked in the draft work plan.

Using the list of model programs in the work plan, it was requested that summaries of these be developed. Though some of these are primarily financing models, we will look at how the collection/transport/reuse/recycling infrastructure functions in them. Patty will summarize the Massachusetts model. Scott Cassel will summarize the Dutch model. And Gary Davis will post an updated paper on system models on the web, which should cover most of the rest.

Next Steps and Assignments

- **Everyone** will continue to search out data sources on the existing situation. They will summarize them (provide annotations on what data is most relevant to the questions posed to the subgroup) and send them to Wayne (wriifer@concentric.net) for compilation.
- **Everyone** should review the work plan, the questions posed, and the hierarchy document and provide comments to Wayne.
- **Reggie** will send language for his suggested additional questions.
- **Lynn** will draft up a potential scope and budget for a national study of existing e-recycling operations.
- **Gary** will summarize the NSC and Franklin studies and post it on the web site.
- A sub-subgroup of **Patty, Chris, Julie and Wayne** will develop questions for evaluating the models.
- **Patty** will summarize the Massachusetts model.
- **Scott Cassel** will summarize the Dutch model

- **Gary Davis** will post an updated paper on system models on the web, which should cover most of the rest