

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association

David White, Regional Representative

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Mr. Warren Johnson, Solid Waste Compliance Supervisor

Property and Environmental Services

Metro

600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232

Re: Comments on Proposed revisions to Metro Code Chapter 5.00 (Solid Waste Definitions)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am Regional Representative for the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA). ORRA is the statewide trade association representing solid waste management companies in Oregon. ORRA members collect and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, as well as operate source-separated recyclable material processing facilities and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations and landfills.

Please consider the following comments regarding Metro's definition of Solid Waste:

The state of Oregon, in ORS 459.005 (24), defines Solid Waste as follows:

Solid waste means all useless or discarded putrescible and nonputrescible materials, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, paper and cardboard, sewage sludge, septic tank and cesspool pumpings or other sludge, useless or discarded commercial, industrial, demolition and construction materials, discarded or abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semisolid materials, dead animals and infectious waste as defined in ORS 459.386 (Definitions for ORS 459.386 to 459.405). Solid waste does not include:

(a) Hazardous waste as defined in ORS 466.005 (Definitions for ORS 453.635 and 466.005 to 466.385).

(b) Materials used for fertilizer or for other productive purposes or which are salvageable as such materials are used on land in agricultural operations and the growing or harvesting of crops and the raising of animals.

(c) Woody biomass that is combusted as a fuel by a facility that has obtained a permit described in ORS 468A.040 (Permits).

Metro, in Code 5.01.010 (Definitions), defines Solid Waste as follows:

“Solid waste” means all putrescible and non-putrescible wastes, including without limitation, garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, waste paper and cardboard; discarded or abandoned vehicles or parts thereof; sewage sludge, septic tank and cesspool pumpings

or other sludge; commercial, industrial, demolition and construction waste; discarded home and industrial appliances; asphalt, broken concrete and bricks; manure, vegetable or animal solid and semi-solid wastes, dead animals; infectious waste as defined in ORS 459.386; and other such wastes, including without limitation cleanup materials contaminated with hazardous substances, commingled recyclable material, petroleum contaminated soil, special waste, source-separated recyclable material, land clearing debris and yard debris; but the term does not include:

- (1) Hazardous wastes as defined in ORS 466.005;
- (2) Radioactive wastes as defined in ORS 469.300;
- (3) Materials used for fertilizer, soil conditioning, humus restoration, or for other productive purposes or which are salvageable for these purposes and are used on land in agricultural operations and the growing or harvesting of crops and the raising of fowls or animals, provided the materials are used at or below agronomic application rates; or
- (4) Explosives.

Metro's definition of Solid Waste varies significantly from the state's definition. Specifically Metro's definition deletes the words "useless and discarded" and adds the words "commingled recyclable material" and "source-separated recyclable material".

In the Summary of Proposed Metro Title V Changes, dated February 29, 2016 in the section on Chapter 5.00, it states that proposed changes specific to Modified Terms or Added Terms were to "Change definitions to match as defined by state or reference Oregon Administrative Rules. In general, the term is defined verbatim to assist the reader. Citation references are only used when the State's definition is too long or not easily transcribed."

It appears from the above, that at least in some instances, Metro acknowledges the importance of adopting definitions that are consistent with the state definition. This provides the solid waste system with reliable, established and generally accepted references. Metro has chosen to deviate from the accepted definition of Solid Waste.

Metro's definition of Solid Waste should follow the state of Oregon's definition by reinserting the words "useless and discarded" to clarify that the material is unwanted by the person last using it and deleting the words "commingled recyclable material" and "source-separated recyclable material" to clarify that the material has not been separated from solid waste for the purpose of recycling by the person last using it.

Sincerely,



David White, ORRA Regional Representative

cc: Kristan Mitchell, Executive Director, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association