

5/22/07

To: LRAPA Advisory Committee
From: Ralph Johnston, LRAPA
Subj: Proposed Amendments to Title 47 of LRAPA Rules (Open Burning)

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency is proposing to amend Title 47 of its' Rules and Regulations, which address open burning. The purpose of these amendments is to include language which addresses small recreational fires such as patio fireplaces, add fire districts to the control area, and other minor changes to improve the effectiveness of these rules. You will find a copy of these draft rules attached to this memo.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

Section 47-001: LRAPA name change correction

Section 47-010: The definitions of "Agricultural Operation", "Commercial Open Burning", "Construction Open Burning", "Demolition Open Burning", "Industrial Open Burning", "Open Burning", and "Residential Open Burning", are amended to provide clarity. The definitions of "Nuisance" and "Recreational Fire" are added.

Section 47-015 Small recreational fires including patio fireplaces, etc., are addressed. They are effectively treated as inside fireplaces.

A reference to compliance with local fire safety regulations is added.

The end time for allowed burn days will no longer be fixed at sunset. End times prior to sunset could be set by the daily advisory.

The burn season within the Eugene/Springfield UGB has been reduced. Open burning will no longer be allowed during the Home Wood Heating Season, November through February.

The Hazeldell and Siuslaw RFPDs are added to the list of fire districts.

Open burning in the outlying areas of Lane County is restricted to the October 15 through June 15 period.

Section 47-020 There are several LRAPA name change corrections and some restrictions on the renewal of letter permits are removed.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me a 541-736-1056 ext. 213.

LRAPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5/29/2007

NOON

- I. Call to Order – Russ Ayers (5 minutes)
- II. Public Participation
- III. Review of Draft Open Burning Rules (20 minutes)
- IV. Strategic Planning – LRAPA Goals (35 minutes)
- V. Adjournment

List for future discussions

- Strategic planning process
- Supplemental Environmental Projects – developing list of projects
- General website review
- Auto emissions programs
- LRAPA open burning fines matrix
- Rule making

Meeting Notes

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5/29/07

In attendance: Russ Ayers, Maurie Denner, Gery Vander Meer, Brian Forge, Paul Engelking, Hugh Larkin, Rick Rogers, John Tamulonis, Amy Peccia, Larry Dunlap

Staff: Merlyn Hough, Sally Markos, Ralph Johnston

Guest: Link Smith, State Department of Forestry

* Open Burning Rules

Ralph Johnston summarized the proposed changes to LRAPA's open burning rules. He made special note of language added about recreational fires (size and allowable fuels) and devices sold as patio heaters. Patio heaters include chimineas, fire bowls, and similar devices. It was noted that these devices are still subject to nuisance rules and safety regulations set by local fire districts.

Questions were asked about general open burning, including the need for fires to be out by sunset and the number of complaints LRAPA receives about open burning violations. It was explained that fires must be out by sunset to prevent smoldering and the rule is enforced to protect air quality. Open burning complaints are common and there are a number of people cited per year for various violations of LRAPA rules.

In response to a question about the \$4.00/cubic yard fee LRAPA charges for burning permits, Merlyn mentioned the program operates at a loss. A fee reduction would not be feasible.

* Strategic Planning

The strategic planning process and progress was reviewed. Stan Biles is facilitating the next steps with the board of directors. LRAPA priorities, successes, and future tasks will be identified during interviews with individual board members and discussed at the next board meeting on June 7. The role of the CAC will also be discussed with board members.

Prior to the meeting, CAC members were given a simplified version of LRAPA's goals and objectives document to review. To obtain feedback on prioritizing goals and objectives, a round table discussion was initiated and members were asked to rank the four main goals. **Goal 1, Air Quality** was ranked as highest priority followed by **Goals 2&3, Involvement and Service**, with **Goal 4, Partnerships** ranking last. A fifth goal was suggested, **Financial Independence** and further discussion led to a proposal to add it as an Objective under **Goal 4, Partnerships**.

During discussion, it was suggested the goals be used as priorities for allocating staff time and objectives be more focused on “how” specific tasks would be accomplished.

There was a consensus that **Goal 2, Involvement** was missing key elements. It was suggested to add two new objectives including 1) Effectively listen and utilize public review and input, and 2) Effectively utilize the Citizens Advisory Committee. LRAPA does send out surveys on a yearly basis. Other vehicles for soliciting feedback include public comment periods on new rules and new or modified industrial permits, and agendaizing public comments at Board and Advisory Committee meetings. LRAPA also holds public informational meetings on special topics to share information and listen to concerns as well as other public outreach.

During discussion on the **service goal 3**, the two industry representatives that attended the meeting emphasized the need for continued emphasis on **Service objectives 12 and 14** for “Permitting and Compliance” and “Staff development.” Those objectives are a day to day requirement for the air protection agency and a major source of funding for key agency activities.

****No meeting in June****

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 31.

List for future discussions

- Strategic Planning
- Supplemental Environmental Projects – developing list of projects
- SEP website review
- General website review
- Auto emissions programs
- Update open burning rules
- LRAPA open burning fines matrix
- Rule making