

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: July 28, 2011

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item D, Informational item: Federal and state pharmaceutical take-back programs
Aug. 25, 2011, EQC meeting

Purpose of item The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on efforts to provide safe and convenient collection systems in Oregon for unwanted and unused drugs. Janet Gillaspie, Executive Director, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies will provide the commission with an update on:

- Oregon's results from two national drug take back collection events held in 2010 and 2011, and plans for the next national program set for October 29, 2011.
- Oregon law enforcement agencies that are offering unwanted drug collection boxes for their community
- Status of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's rule making efforts to implement the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act (an amendment to the Controlled Substances Act) that should provide more options for drug take back programs
- Areas for partnership among local governments and DEQ to continue to encourage environmentally sound disposal of unwanted drugs.

Background The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies is comprised of 75 wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies and associate members providing water quality services to Oregon's urban areas.

In 2006, ACWA convened a group of stakeholders to explore the development of a statewide drug take back program in Oregon. The Oregon Pharmaceutical Take Back Stakeholder Group met for one year to create a proposed program to collect leftover medications for Oregon that was effective, fair, and economical. DEQ participated as a stakeholder and funding agency. Action by the 2007 Oregon Legislature included pharmaceutical take back programs as one program to examine to reduce toxics in Oregon's water. Legislation proposed for a product stewardship-type program for unwanted and unused drugs failed in the 2009 Legislature.

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