

**Date:** May 26, 2011

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item I, Informational item: Project partner recognition for the local household hazardous waste program serving Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties June 15-17, 2011, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** This item recognizes the project partners who helped site, plan, budget, and build a new local household hazardous waste collection program in northeast Oregon. The program serves the residents of Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties with a permanent household hazardous waste facility located in La Grande and satellite facilities located in Enterprise and Baker City. These are the first household hazardous waste collection facilities located in this region.

**Background** As reported at the April 2011 commission meeting, DEQ's household hazardous waste program has supported the planning, funding and development process that has resulted in the start-up of this local household hazardous waste program in northeast Oregon. This program is served by a permanent household hazardous waste facility located in La Grande and satellite facilities located in Enterprise and Baker City. Final transport and management of collected wastes is carried out by the program's contractor, Clean Harbors Environmental Services.

Prior to the development of this local program, DEQ provided periodic state-funded household hazardous waste collection events in the area. Residents of Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties did not have a regular collection service until this program began operation. Now they have three new facilities providing a safe and convenient disposal option.

The state-of-the-art household hazardous waste collection and temporary storage facility, owned by Union County and operated by City Garbage Service at the Waste Pro Transfer Station in La Grande, officially opened for business March 21 after seven years of planning, engineering design, permitting and construction work.. Two satellite household hazardous waste facilities, located at the Baker Sanitary Recycling Depot in Baker City and the Ant Flat Landfill near Enterprise, opened for business on March 23 and 24, respectively.

The total estimated cost for the project was roughly \$600,000. DEQ provided \$237,000 in grant money for planning, local coordination, engineering design and construction of these facilities

The program operations are funded through a \$3.17 per ton surcharge on garbage disposal. All three county commissions as well as the city councils of Haines and Baker City approved the surcharge. The total estimated surcharge revenues amount to \$100,000 per year, which the program expects to sufficiently fund operations.

Steve McClure, Union County Commission Chair and Chair of the Union County Solid Waste District Board, provided leadership for the overall planning effort, grant management, fiscal management and rate adjustment advocacy. The mayors and city councils of North Powder, Cove, Union, Elgin, Imbler and Island City provided rate adjustment support for Union County.

Mike Hayward, Wallowa County Commission Chair, and Russ McMartin, Public Works Department Director, provided key support to the planning effort and were instrumental in the placement and approval of the satellite household hazardous waste facility at the County's Ant Flat Landfill. The mayors and city councils of Wallowa, Lostine and Joseph provided rate adjustment support for Wallowa County. Trained employees of Wallowa County assist with the operation of this collection facility.

Fred Warner, Jr., Baker County Commission Chair, and the mayor and city councils of Baker City and the City of Haines assisted the planning efforts and provided rate adjustment support.

Darin Larvik, Waste Pro Transfer Station Operations Manager, provided key assistance with the planning effort, siting, and funding match for the permanent household hazardous waste facility in La Grande. He is now the facility operator and is providing general coordination and management of the overall program. Trained employees of Waste Pro assist with the operation of this collection facility.

Loren and David Henry, Baker Sanitary Service owners and operators, also provided key assistance with the planning effort and the siting of the satellite facility at their Recycling Depot in Baker City. Trained employees of Baker Sanitary Service assist with the operation of this collection facility.

The new program represents a major environmental success for

northeast Oregon, and demonstrates a local, collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, public/private community solution to a complex local and state issue.

**Attachments**      None

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