

CHAPTER 115A

WASTE MANAGEMENT

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115A.03 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subs 1 to 15, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 16. [Repealed, 1997 c 7 art 1 s 26]

[For text of subs 17 to 38, see M.S.1996]

115A.10 DUTIES OF THE OFFICE; HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES; ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

The office and the director on behalf of the office shall encourage the development and operation of hazardous waste facilities by private enterprise to the extent practicable and consistent with the purposes of sections 115A.01 to 115A.72 and the office's hazardous waste management plan adopted pursuant to section 115A.11. In adopting the management plan, and in its actions and decisions under sections 115A.18 to 115A.30 and 115A.32 to 115A.39, the office and the director on behalf of the office shall solicit the active participation of private waste management firms and shall so conduct its activities as to encourage private permit applications for facilities needed in the state.

History: 1997 c 7 art 1 s 27

115A.11 HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

[For text of subs 1 and 1a, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 1b. **Contents.** The plan must include at least the elements prescribed in this subdivision.

(a) The plan must estimate the types and quantities of hazardous waste that will be generated in the state through the year 2000.

(b) The plan must set out specific and quantifiable objectives for reducing to the greatest feasible and prudent extent the need for and use of disposal facilities located within the state, through waste reduction, pretreatment, retrievable storage, processing, and resource recovery.

(c) The plan must estimate the minimum disposal capacity and capability required by generators in the state for use through the year 2000. The estimate must be based on the achievement of the objectives under paragraph (b).

(d) The plan must describe and recommend the implementation strategies required to assure availability of disposal capacity for the types and quantities of waste estimated under paragraph (c) and to achieve the objectives required by paragraph (b). The recommendations must address at least the following: the necessary private and government actions; the types of facilities and programs required; the availability and use of specific facilities outside of the state; development schedules for facilities, services, and rules that should be established in the state; revenue-raising and financing measures; levels of public and private effort and expenditure; legal and institutional changes; and other similar matters.

(e) The plan must provide for the orderly development of hazardous waste management sites and facilities to protect the health and safety of rural and urban communities. In preparing the plan the office shall consider its impact upon agriculture and natural resources.

(f) The plan must include methods and procedures that will encourage the establishment of programs, services, and facilities that the office recommends for development in the state for the recycling, reuse, recovery, conversion, treatment, destruction, transfer, storage, or disposal, including retrievable storage, of hazardous waste.

The plan must be consistent with the estimate of need and feasibility analysis prepared under section 115A.24 and the decisions made by the office under section 115A.28.

The office may make the implementation of elements of the plan contingent on actions of the legislature that have been recommended in the draft plan.

Subd. 2. Procedure. The plan and the procedures for hearings on the plan are not subject to the contested case provisions of chapter 14. Before revising the draft plan or amending its adopted plan, the office shall provide notice and hold a public meeting.

History: 1997 c 7 art 1 s 28; 1997 c 187 art 1 s 9

115A.12 ADVISORY COUNCILS.

(a) The director shall establish a solid waste management advisory council and a prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council that are broadly representative of the geographic areas and interests of the state.

(b) The solid waste council shall have not less than nine nor more than 21 members. The membership of the solid waste council shall consist of one-third citizen representatives, one-third representatives from local government units, and one-third representatives from private solid waste management firms. The solid waste council shall contain at least three members experienced in the private recycling industry and at least one member experienced in each of the following areas: state and municipal finance; solid waste collection, processing, and disposal; and solid waste reduction and resource recovery.

(c) The prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council shall have not less than nine nor more than 24 members. The membership shall consist of one-third citizen representatives, one-third representatives of government, and one-third representatives of business and industry. The director may appoint nonvoting members from other environmental and business assistance providers in the state.

(d) The chairs of the advisory councils shall be appointed by the director. The director shall provide administrative and staff services for the advisory councils. The advisory councils shall have such duties as are assigned by law or the director. The solid waste advisory council shall make recommendations to the office on its solid waste management activities. The prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council shall make recommendations to the office on policy, programs, and legislation in pollution prevention, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, resource conservation, and the management of hazardous waste. Members of the advisory councils shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses as determined by the director. The solid waste management advisory council and the prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council expire June 30, 2001.

History: 1997 c 7 art 1 s 29; 1997 c 45 s 1

115A.20 EVALUATION OF SITES.

The office shall not be required to promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 14 to govern its evaluation and selection of sites for commercial stabilization and containment facilities under sections 115A.18 to 115A.30, nor shall the agency be required to promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 14 on criteria and standards to govern its certification of intrinsic suitability of sites for commercial stabilization and containment facilities under sections 115A.18 to 115A.30. In evaluating and selecting sites for stabilization and containment facilities, the office shall consider at least the following factors:

(a) economic feasibility, including proximity to concentrations of generators of the types of hazardous wastes likely to be proposed and permitted for stabilization and containment;

- (b) intrinsic suitability of the sites;
- (c) federal and state pollution control and environmental protection rules;
- (d) the risk and effect for local residents, units of government, and the local public health, safety, and welfare, including such dangers as an accidental release of wastes during transportation to a facility or at a facility, water, air, and land pollution, and fire or explosion;
- (e) the consistency of a facility with, and its effect on, existing and planned local land use and development; local laws, ordinances, and permits; and local public facilities and services;
- (f) the adverse effects of a facility at the site on agriculture and natural resources and opportunities to mitigate or eliminate such adverse effects by stipulations, conditions, and requirements respecting the design and operation of a disposal facility at the proposed site.

No land shall be excluded from consideration except land determined by the agency to be intrinsically unsuitable for the use intended.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as granting the office an exemption from the rulemaking requirements of chapter 14 if the agency adopts statements of general applicability and future effect, including amendments, suspensions, and repeals of rules, adopted to implement or make specific the law enforced or administered by the agency or to govern the organization and procedure.

History: 1997 c 187 art 1 s 10

115A.54 WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 2a. Solid waste management projects. (a) The director shall provide technical and financial assistance for the acquisition and betterment of solid waste management projects as provided in this subdivision and section 115A.52. Money appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision must be distributed as grants.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a project may receive grant assistance up to 25 percent of the capital cost of the project or \$2,000,000, whichever is less, except that projects constructed as a result of intercounty cooperative agreements may receive (1) grant assistance up to 25 percent of the capital cost of the project; or (2) \$2,000,000 times the number of participating counties, whichever is less.

(c) A recycling project or a project to compost or cocompost waste may receive grant assistance up to 50 percent of the capital cost of the project or \$2,000,000, whichever is less, except that projects completed as a result of intercounty cooperative agreements may receive (1) grant assistance up to 50 percent of the capital cost of the project; or (2) \$2,000,000 times the number of participating counties, whichever is less. The following projects may also receive grant assistance in the amounts specified in this paragraph:

(1) a project to improve control of or reduce air emissions at an existing resource recovery facility; and

(2) a project to substantially increase the recovery of materials or energy, substantially reduce the amount or toxicity of waste processing residuals, or expand the capacity of an existing resource recovery facility to meet the resource recovery needs of an expanded region if each county from which waste is or would be received has achieved a recycling rate in excess of the goals in section 115A.551, and is implementing aggressive waste reduction and household hazardous waste management programs.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the director may award grants for transfer stations that will initially transfer waste to landfills if the transfer stations are part of a planned resource recovery project, the county where the planned resource recovery facility will be located has a comprehensive solid waste management plan approved by the director, and the solid waste management plan proposes the development of the resource recovery facility. If the proposed resource recovery facility is not in place and operating within 12 years of the date of the grant award, the recipient shall repay the grant amount to the state.

(e) Projects without resource recovery are not eligible for assistance.

(f) In addition to any assistance received under paragraph (b) or (c), a project may receive grant assistance for the cost of tests necessary to determine the appropriate pollution

control equipment for the project or the environmental effects of the use of any product or material produced by the project.

(g) In addition to the application requirements of section 115A.51, an application for a project serving eligible jurisdictions in only a single county must demonstrate that cooperation with jurisdictions in other counties to develop the project is not needed or not feasible. Each application must also demonstrate that the project is not financially prudent without the state assistance, because of the applicant's financial capacity and the problems inherent in the waste management situation in the area, particularly transportation distances and limited waste supply and markets for resources recovered.

(h) For the purposes of this subdivision, a "project" means a processing facility, together with any transfer stations, transmission facilities, and other related and appurtenant facilities primarily serving the processing facility. The director shall adopt rules for the program by July 1, 1985.

(i) Notwithstanding anything in this subdivision to the contrary, a project to construct a new mixed municipal solid waste transfer station that has an enforceable commitment of at least ten years, or of sufficient length to retire bonds sold for the facility, to serve an existing resource recovery facility may receive grant assistance up to 75 percent of the capital cost of the project if addition of the transfer station will increase substantially the geographical area served by the resource recovery facility and the ability of the resource recovery facility to operate more efficiently on a regional basis and the facility meets the criteria in paragraph (c), the second clause (2). A transfer station eligible for assistance under this paragraph is not eligible for assistance under any other paragraph of this subdivision.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 216 s 95

115A.554 AUTHORITY OF SANITARY DISTRICTS.

A sanitary district has the authorities and duties of counties within the district's boundary for purposes of sections 115A.0716; 115A.46, subdivisions 4 and 5; 115A.48; 115A.551; 115A.552; 115A.553; 115A.919; 115A.929; 115A.93; 115A.96, subdivision 6; 115A.961; 116.072; 375.18, subdivision 14; 400.08; 400.16; and 400.161.

History: 1997 c 231 art 16 s 2

115A.58 MINNESOTA STATE WASTE MANAGEMENT BONDS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 2. **Issuance of bonds.** Upon request by the director and upon authorization as provided in subdivision 1, the commissioner of finance shall sell Minnesota state waste management bonds. The bonds shall be in the aggregate amount requested, and sold upon sealed bids upon the notice, at the price in the form and denominations, bearing interest at the rate or rates, maturing in the amounts and on the dates (with or without option of prepayment upon notice and at specified times and prices), payable at a bank or banks within or outside the state (with provisions, if any, for registration, conversion, and exchange and for the issuance of temporary bonds or notes in anticipation of the sale or delivery of definitive bonds), and in accordance with further provisions as the commissioner of finance shall determine, subject to the approval of the attorney general, but not subject to chapter 14, including section 14.386. The bonds shall be executed by the commissioner of finance and attested by the state treasurer under their official seals. The signatures of the officers on the bonds and any interest coupons and their seals may be printed, lithographed, engraved, stamped, or otherwise reproduced thereon, except that each bond shall be authenticated by the manual signature on its face of one of the officers or of an authorized representative of a bank designated by the commissioner of finance as registrar or other authenticating agent. The commissioner of finance shall ascertain and certify to the purchasers of the bonds the performance and existence of all acts, conditions, and things necessary to make them valid and binding general obligations of the state of Minnesota, subject to the approval of the attorney general.

[For text of subs 3 to 6, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 187 art 5 s 13

115A.908 MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSFER FEE.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1997 c 216 s 160]

115A.912 WASTE TIRE MANAGEMENT.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 4. **Waste tire materials; prohibition.** Materials derived from waste tires may not be used as lightweight fill in the construction of public roads in the state unless the construction plan is prepared by a professional engineer experienced in the geotechnical field and licensed in the state of Minnesota. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the location, duration, and length of the project, the depth of fill, the depth of cover, the size of waste tire pieces, the plan for encapsulating the waste tire pieces, and the fire protection plan. All engineering specifications must be consistent with the current lightweight tire fill engineering practices as developed for roadways by the Minnesota department of transportation.

History: 1997 c 216 s 96

115A.916 MOTOR VEHICLE FLUIDS AND FILTERS; PROHIBITIONS.

(a) A person may not knowingly place motor oil, brake fluid, power steering fluid, transmission fluid, motor oil filters, or motor vehicle antifreeze:

- (1) in solid waste or in a solid waste management facility other than a recycling facility or a household hazardous waste collection facility;
- (2) in or on the land, unless approved by the agency; or
- (3) in or on the waters of the state or in a stormwater or wastewater collection or treatment system.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "antifreeze" does not include small amounts of antifreeze contained in water used to flush the cooling system of a vehicle after the antifreeze has been drained and does not include deicer that has been used on the exterior of a vehicle.

(c) For businesses that purchase or use an annual average of over 50 gallons of motor vehicle antifreeze per month for on-site installation in motor vehicles, this section does not apply to antifreeze placed in a wastewater collection system that includes a publicly owned treatment works that is permitted by the agency until December 31, 1997. For businesses that purchase or use an annual average of 50 gallons or less of motor vehicle antifreeze per month for on-site installation in motor vehicles, this section does not apply to antifreeze placed in a wastewater collection system that includes a publicly owned treatment works that is permitted by the agency until July 1, 1998.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), motor oil filters and portions of motor oil filters may be processed at a permitted mixed municipal solid waste resource recovery facility that directly burns the waste if:

- (1) the facility is subject to an industrial waste management plan that addresses management of motor oil filters and the owner or operator of the facility can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commissioner that the facility is in compliance with that plan;
- (2) the facility recovers ferrous metal after incineration for recycling as part of its operation; and
- (3) the motor oil filters are collected separately from mixed municipal solid waste and are not combined with it except for the purpose of incinerating the waste.

(e) The commissioner of the pollution control agency, industry organizations representing automotive repair businesses and antifreeze recycling businesses, and environmental organizations shall work together to develop and promote opportunities to recycle waste motor

vehicle antifreeze and to review the impact of alternative antifreeze disposal or recycling methods on businesses and the environment.

History: 1997 c 216 s 97

115A.932 MERCURY PROHIBITION.

Subdivision 1. Prohibitions. (a) A person may not place mercury or a thermostat, thermometer, electric switch, appliance, gauge, medical or scientific instrument, or electric relay or other electrical device from which the mercury has not been removed for reuse or recycling:

- (1) in solid waste; or
- (2) in a wastewater disposal system.

(b) A person may not knowingly place mercury or a thermostat, thermometer, electric switch, appliance, gauge, medical or scientific instrument, or electric relay or other electrical device from which the mercury has not been removed for reuse or recycling:

- (1) in a solid waste processing facility; or
- (2) in a solid waste disposal facility, as defined in section 115.01, subdivision 4.

(c) A person may not knowingly place a fluorescent or high intensity discharge lamp:

- (1) in solid waste; or
- (2) in a solid waste facility, except a household hazardous waste collection or recycling facility.

This paragraph does not apply to waste lamps generated by households until August 1, 1994.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 62 s 1; 1997 c 216 s 98

115A.9523 [Repealed, 1997 c 216 s 160]

115A.965 PROHIBITIONS ON SELECTED TOXICS IN PACKAGING.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 3. Exemptions. (a) Until January 1, 2000, the following packaging is exempt from the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2:

(1) packaging that would not exceed the total toxics concentration levels under subdivision 2 but for the addition in the packaging of materials that have fulfilled their intended use and have been discarded by consumers; and

(2) packages that are reused but exceed the total toxics concentration levels in subdivision 2, provided that:

(i) the product being conveyed by the package is regulated under federal or state health or safety requirements;

(ii) transportation of the packaged product is regulated under federal or state transportation requirements; and

(iii) disposal of the package is performed according to federal or state radioactive or hazardous waste disposal requirements.

(b) Until January 1, 2000, packages that have a controlled distribution and reuse, but exceed the total toxics concentration levels in subdivision 2 and do not meet the requirements of paragraph (a), may be exempted from subdivisions 1 and 2 if the manufacturers or distributors of the packages petition for and receive approval from the commissioner. In granting approval, the commissioner shall base the decision on satisfactory demonstrations that the environmental benefit of the controlled distribution and reuse is significantly greater compared to the same package manufactured in compliance with the total toxics concentration levels in subdivision 2, and on plans proposed by the manufacturer that include each of the following elements:

- (1) a means of identifying the packaging in a permanent and visible manner;

(2) a method of regulatory and financial accountability so that a specified percentage of the packaging manufactured and distributed to other persons is not discarded by those persons after use but are returned to the manufacturer or the manufacturer's designee;

(3) a system of inventory and record maintenance to account for the packaging placed in, and removed from, service;

(4) a means of transforming packaging that is no longer reusable into recycled materials for manufacturing or into manufacturing wastes which are subject to existing federal or state laws or regulations governing such manufacturing wastes that ensure that these wastes do not enter the industrial or mixed municipal solid waste stream; and

(5) a system of annually reporting to the commissioner changes to the system and changes in designees.

(c) Packaging to which lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium has been intentionally introduced in the manufacturing process may be exempted from the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2 by the commissioner of the pollution control agency if:

(1) the use of the toxic element in the packaging is required by federal or state health or safety laws; or

(2) there is no feasible alternative for the packaging because the toxic element used is essential to the protection, safe handling, or function of the contents of the package.

The commissioner may grant an exemption under this paragraph for a period not to exceed two years upon application by the packaging manufacturer that includes documentation showing that the criteria for an exemption are met. Exemptions granted by the commissioner may be renewed upon reapplication every two years.

[For text of subs 4 and 5, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1997 c 186 s 4]

Subd. 6a. **Implementation.** In the interests of promoting consistent, nationally applicable standards, the commissioner shall have discretion to coordinate efforts under this section with similar efforts in other jurisdictions.

Subd. 7. **Report.** By September 1 of each odd-numbered year, the commissioner shall prepare and submit to the environment and natural resources committees of the senate and house of representatives, the finance division of the senate committee on environment and natural resources, and the house of representatives committee on environment and natural resources finance a report to include:

(1) enforcement actions taken by the commissioner under this section for the reporting period; and

(2) for each exemption granted, the identity of the party requesting the exemption, a brief description of the packaging, and the basis for granting the exemption.

History: 1997 c 186 s 1-3

115A.9651 LISTED METALS IN SPECIFIED PRODUCTS; ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Prohibition.** After July 1, 1998, no person may distribute a listed product for sale or use in this state.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Council" means the council established under subdivision 5.

(c) "Essential product" means a specified product into which the introduction of a listed metal is required under military specifications or to ensure the integrity of a product essential for aviation or railroad safety, and which is being used only in that application.

(d) "Intentionally introduce" means to deliberately use a listed metal as an element during manufacture or distribution of a specified product. Intentional introduction does not include the incidental presence of a listed metal.

(e) "Listed metal" means lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium.

(f) "Listed product" means a specified product that is included on the prohibited products list published under subdivision 4.

(g) "New product" means a specified product which was not used, sold, or distributed in the state before July 2, 1998, or which has been reformulated so that it contains more of a listed metal.

(h) "Official" means an officer of a corporation, a general partner of a partnership or limited partnership, a sole proprietor, or, in the case of any other entity, a person with high level management responsibilities.

(i) "Specified product" means an ink, dye, pigment, paint, or fungicide into which a listed metal has been intentionally introduced or in which the incidental presence of a listed metal exceeds a concentration of 100 parts per million.

Subd. 3. Certification of compliance. (a) By July 1, 1998, each person who has filed the progress report specified in Laws 1994, chapter 585, section 30, subdivision 2, paragraph (e), indicating compliance would be achieved by July 1, 1998, shall certify to the commissioner that the products referenced in that report have been reformulated and no longer meet the definition of a specified product. The certification must be in writing and signed by an official of the company. If, due to significant change in circumstances, the person cannot so certify by July 1, 1998, a product review report and fee shall be submitted as provided under subdivision 6.

(b) The person submitting the certification shall keep a copy on file and make copies available to the commissioner or the attorney general upon request or to any member of the public within 60 days of receipt of a written request that specifies the type of product for which the information is requested.

Subd. 4. Prohibited products list. By October 1, 1998, the commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of specified products for which the commissioner has received certifications as provided under subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Listed metals advisory council. (a) The purpose of the listed metals advisory council is to promote sustainable development, as defined in section 4A.07, and the public health and welfare and protect the environment and the state's economy by removing listed metals from specified products so that the listed metals do not contribute to bioaccumulation and burden taxpayers with unnecessary disposal costs.

(b) By July 1, 1997, the commissioner shall appoint a listed metals advisory council consisting of the following five permanent members: a chair, a representative of government, a representative of business, a representative of a citizens' organization, and a representative from a relevant field of academia. Temporary members of the council shall be appointed by the commissioner under paragraph (f). No permanent or temporary member of the council who is an employee of a manufacturer or user of a specified product may sit in consideration of that product.

(c) The council shall have the following duties:

(1) review reports submitted under subdivisions 6, 7, and 8 and provide advice to the commissioner pursuant to paragraph (d); and

(2) report to the commissioner on October 1, 2000, and October 1, 2005, on any reasonable measures that would allow the criteria in paragraph (d) to be met with regard to products reviewed based on information obtained during the review of products.

(d) The council's advice to the commissioner under paragraph (c), clause (1), shall be based on an evaluation of the environmental impact of the product and the ability of the manufacturer or user to reduce or eliminate the listed metal. Before making a recommendation that the commissioner take action under subdivision 9, the council must conclude that:

(1) there is an alternative to the specified product that does not contain the listed metal that performs the same technical function, is commercially available, and is economically practicable; and

(2) replacement of the product with the alternative will result in an environmental benefit in the state.

(e) A recommendation that the commissioner take action under subdivision 9 shall include the information required by section 14.131 to the extent the council, through reasonable effort, can ascertain this information.

(f) Before the council evaluates a specific product or group of products, the commissioner shall appoint temporary council members in an even number up to six. The commissioner shall seek to appoint as temporary members persons having expertise on the product or group of products under review as well as persons representing community interests. The temporary members shall be voting members of the council on all matters related to consideration of the product or group of products. The terms of the temporary members shall expire when the council has completed its review of the product or group of products and has submitted its recommendation to the commissioner pursuant to this subdivision.

(g) The permanent members of the council must prioritize the council's review of a specific product or group of products by publishing a notice in the State Register by October 1, 1998, identifying those specified products, or groups of products, which will be reviewed by July 1, 2000. By October 1, 2000, the council shall publish a notice in the State Register identifying those specified products, or groups of products, which will be reviewed by July 1, 2005. The council shall consider potential environmental impacts in prioritizing its review. The council shall notify manufacturers and users who have submitted product review reports of the appropriate review schedule. A manufacturer who has submitted a product review report may request an expedited review by the council.

(h) The commissioner shall provide staff and administrative services to the council. Compensation and removal of council members shall be as provided in section 15.059, subdivisions 3 and 4. The council shall dissolve on June 30, 2006.

Subd. 6. Product review reports. (a) Except as provided under subdivision 7, the manufacturer, or an association of manufacturers, of any specified product distributed for sale or use in this state that is not listed pursuant to subdivision 4 shall submit a product review report and fee as provided in paragraph (c) to the commissioner for each product by July 1, 1998. Each product review report shall contain at least the following:

(1) a policy statement articulating upper management support for eliminating or reducing intentional introduction of listed metals into its products;

(2) a description of the product and the amount of each listed metal distributed for use in this state;

(3) a description of past and ongoing efforts to eliminate or reduce the listed metal in the product;

(4) an assessment of options available to reduce or eliminate the intentional introduction of the listed metal including any alternatives to the specified product that do not contain the listed metal, perform the same technical function, are commercially available, and are economically practicable;

(5) a statement of objectives in numerical terms and a schedule for achieving the elimination of the listed metals and an environmental assessment of alternative products;

(6) a listing of options considered not to be technically or economically practicable; and

(7) certification attesting to the accuracy of the information in the report signed and dated by an official of the manufacturer or user.

If the manufacturer fails to submit a product review report, a user of a specified product may submit a report and fee which comply with this subdivision by August 15, 1998.

(b) By July 1, 1999, and annually thereafter until the commissioner takes action under subdivision 9, the manufacturer or user must submit a progress report and fee as provided in paragraph (c) updating the information presented under paragraph (a).

(c) The fee shall be \$295 for each report. The fee shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the environmental fund.

(d) Where it cannot be determined from a progress report submitted by a person pursuant to Laws 1994, chapter 585, section 30, subdivision 2, paragraph (e), the number of products for which product review reports are due under this subdivision, the commissioner shall have the authority to determine, after consultation with that person, the number of products for which product review reports are required.

(e) The commissioner shall summarize, aggregate, and publish data reported under paragraphs (a) and (b) annually.

(f) A product that is the subject of a decision under section 115A.965 is exempt from this section.

Subd. 7. Essential products; published list. (a) By January 1, 1998, a manufacturer or user of an essential product must submit a certification to the commissioner that the product meets the definition in subdivision 2, paragraph (c). By July 1, 2002, each manufacturer or user of an essential product shall submit a report to the commissioner which includes the information required in subdivision 6, paragraph (a), and a statement of whether the product continues to meet the definition in subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

(b) By October 1, 1998, the commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of essential products for which the commissioner has received certification pursuant to this subdivision. By October 1, 2002, the commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of essential products based on reports submitted by July 1, 2002, as provided in paragraph (a).

Subd. 8. New products; criteria for review. (a) After July 1, 1998, but before July 1, 2005, no person shall sell, distribute, or offer for sale in this state a new product prior to the manufacturer or user submitting a product review report and fee specified in subdivision 6.

(b) The council shall review reports submitted under this subdivision and provide advice to the commissioner. The council's advice to the commissioner under this subdivision shall be based on an evaluation of the environmental impact of the product and the ability of the manufacturer or user to reduce or eliminate the listed metal. Before making a recommendation that the commissioner take action under subdivision 9, the council must conclude that:

(1) there is an alternative to the specified product that does not contain the listed metal that performs the same technical function, is commercially available, and is economically practicable, and replacement of the product with the alternative will result in an environmental benefit in the state; or

(2) if there is no alternative to the new product, that the use of the listed metal in the new product presents a significant threat to the safe and efficient operation of waste facilities, or use of the listed metal does not increase the useful life span of the new product, reduce the overall toxicity of the final product or of material used in production of the final product, or otherwise provide a net environmental benefit to the state.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision 5, paragraph (f), where the commissioner determines that a new product subject to paragraph (a) is sufficiently similar to a product or products previously reviewed by the council, the commissioner may authorize the permanent members of the council to perform the duties established in paragraph (b) without the appointment of temporary members. In performing those duties, the council shall utilize information gathered in any previous review of a similar product or products.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2005, no person shall sell, distribute, or offer for sale in this state a new product without the commissioner's approval. A person seeking approval of a new product shall submit a product review report including the information and fee specified in subdivision 6. The commissioner shall not approve the new product unless the commissioner determines that it meets the criteria in paragraph (b). The commissioner shall make a determination within six months of receipt of a complete request.

Subd. 9. Authority of commissioner. (a) The commissioner may, upon the recommendation of the council, prohibit the distribution for sale or use in this state of a specified product that is not an essential product.

(b) Before taking action under this subdivision, the commissioner must conclude that:

(1) there is an alternative to the specified product that does not contain the listed metal that performs the same technical function, is commercially available, and is economically practicable, and replacement of the product with the alternative will result in an environmental benefit to the state; or

(2) if there is no alternative to the new product, that the use of the listed metal in the new product presents a significant threat to the safe and efficient operation of waste facilities, or use of the listed metal does not increase the useful life span of the new product, reduce the overall toxicity of the final product or of material used in production of the final product, or otherwise provide a net environmental benefit to the state.

(c) If the commissioner fails to take action under this subdivision as recommended by the council, the commissioner shall submit a report to the legislature explaining the reasons for not taking such action.

(d) The commissioner shall provide the legislature a report and recommendations based on any report prepared by the council under subdivision 5, paragraph (c), clause (2).

Subd. 10. Application; enforcement. (a) This section does not apply to art supplies.

(b) This section may be enforced under sections 115.071 and 116.072. The attorney general or the commissioner of the agency shall coordinate enforcement of this section with the director of the office.

Subd. 11. Rulemaking authority. (a) The pollution control agency may adopt, amend, suspend, and repeal rules to implement this section.

(b) Publication of notice under subdivision 5, paragraph (g), shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of section 14.101.

(c) The commissioner may adopt a council recommendation under subdivision 5 as the agency's statement of need and reasonableness. A recommendation adopted in this manner shall be deemed to satisfy any content requirements for a statement of need and reasonableness imposed by law.

(d) Any hearings on rules adopted under this section shall be conducted in accordance with sections 14.14 to 14.20 and address whether the rule meets the standards for review under which the judge is required to approve or disapprove the rule.

(e) Section 14.125 does not apply to the agency's rulemaking authority under this section.

(f) A rule adopted under this section is effective until repealed by the agency.

History: 1997 c 221 s 1