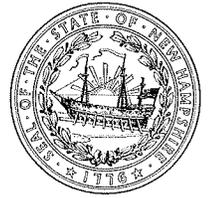




The State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: HB 517, Relative to the incidental combustion of untreated wood at certain municipal transfer stations

Dear Chairman Prescott and Members of the Committee:

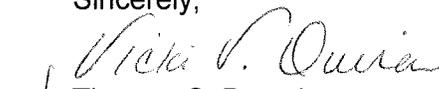
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 517. This bill would make permanent a provision of current law that is due to expire on January 1, 2014, and which allows the incidental combustion of untreated wood at municipal solid waste transfer stations under the supervision of a solid waste operator. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (Department) supports the bill.

During the 2007 session, the NH Legislature enacted a prohibition on the combustion of the wood component of construction and demolition debris (hereinafter "C&D wood"), based upon a number of concerns about potential impacts to air quality. In addition, as originally enacted, the prohibition did not apply during its first 3 years of implementation to the incidental combustion of untreated C&D wood at municipal solid waste transfer stations, provided that combustion occurred under the supervision of a solid waste operator. (Untreated wood is bare wood that has not had any paints, coatings, or preservatives applied to it.) The exclusion was intended to provide time for municipalities to establish alternative management methods for those materials. In 2010, the legislature extended the municipal transfer station exclusion an additional 3 years, until January 1, 2014. Now, HB 517 proposes to make the exclusion permanent.

While the Department promotes responsible management of C&D wood by methods other than combustion, the Department does not oppose having the municipal transfer station exclusion for untreated wood made permanent. Based on facility inspection results and data reported by towns, DES believes that New Hampshire towns have now implemented alternative C&D management methods in conformance with the law. DES finds it reasonable to allow the exclusion for the incidental combustion of untreated wood at transfer stations to remain in effect, as it does not appear to be an impediment to promoting alternative C&D management methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 517. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mike Wimsatt, Director of the Waste Management Division, at 271-2905 or Michael.wimsatt@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Members
HB 517 Sponsors

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