



Ref: 165178

April 20, 2012

Gerry Coons
VP Industry Affairs
OPEI
341 South Patrick Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Coons:

Stewardship Plan Approval

Thank you for submitting the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Stewardship Program Plan on October 1, 2011, and the subsequent revised and finalized document on February 27, 2012, in fulfillment of the requirement under section 4 of the Recycling Regulation.

I have completed my review of the plan and hereby approve the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Stewardship Program. Please be advised that this approval applies only to materials or content contained in the plan that pertains to the requirements of section 5 of the Recycling Regulation.

Program Communication and Public Awareness

With the large number of stewardship programs launching on July 1, 2012, and to ensure a successful program launch, it is paramount that the public, consumers, industry, and any other affected stakeholders are informed of your program and any visible program fees well in advance of the program launch date. To that end, it is our understanding the several stewards/agencies are in the process of combining efforts to develop a collective communications program for stewardship programs launching July 1st.

Equally important to a successful program is ongoing communication and public awareness. We expect you to strive to exceed and continuously improve on the targets in your plan. Given the

importance of public awareness, the Ministry is considering establishing a consumer awareness target for eventual incorporation into the Recycling Regulation. We will keep you apprised on the development of this initiative.

Product Re-use Communication

As part of the plan's commitment to manage products in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy the Ministry expects that OPEI will provide consumers with information and encourage re-use of program products so that only unusable products are entering the recycling process.

Third Party Independent Audit of Non-financial Information in Annual Reports

Please note that the Ministry of Environment, as part of its Industry Product Stewardship compliance strategy, now requires third party testing to confirm prescribed non-financial information reported in industry stewardship agency annual reports. The enclosed document entitled "Guiding Principles - Product Stewardship Agency Non-Financial Information Testing", dated November 15, 2010, contains information and direction for stewardship agencies on the required procedures. For convenience, electronic templates of the test procedures and related documents are available on the Ministry's website at: <http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling/guide/index.htm>. Please be advised that these Guiding Principles are currently being refined and you will be advised when an updated document is available. Please contact Greg Tyson at (250) 387-9774 if you have questions on this requirement or associated documents.

I look forward to working with you to ensure your program is successfully implemented. If you have any questions about this approval or the implementation of your plan, please contact David Lawes at (250) 387-3588 or David.Lawes@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Kris Ord
Director, Waste Management

cc: David Lawes, Head, Industry Product Stewardship Programs
Meegan Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor

File: 50400 25 ELEC OPEI