

Internet Matters

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“The names have all changed since you hung around¹...”

The kickoff eJournal in the fall of 2003 contained my last Internet Matters column. In California, we were waiting for the recall election that gave us the “Governator”. For those erstwhile friends, who read the earlier print versions, welcome back to viewership; I hope that you enjoy this revitalization. For those of you new to the SESH eJournal, you missed some glorious reading and on-line encounters, when we were all net-novices, and finding what you needed was wrought with frustration and perennial whacking the computer.

In this column, I hope to inform and provide useful links to web sites that can help you do your job more effectively and maybe have some fun doing it. The web sites are listed at the end of the full text. Those of you with unrestricted web access should be able to click on a link and go straight to the referenced URL. Let me know if the format and information is useful. (See my contact information, above).

And speaking of California...

It's California and 17 other states against the EPA and Detroit. The courts have ruled that the EPA has the right to regulate Greenhouse Gas emissions (Massachusetts vs. EPA). Under the Clean Air Act, California can petition the EPA to adopt tighter standards. The state has had over 200 petitions granted over the years, but this time, the head of the EPA, Stephen Johnson, said no, over staff recommendations. California has now sued the EPA and is expected to prevail. It means global warming initiatives can be enacted in several states after a favorable verdict.

California has adopted the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB-32) which requires cataloging Greenhouse Gas Emissions and soon regulating their reduction. The program will include market-based compliance mechanisms. The Semiconductor Industry's PFC Emissions Reduction Strategy was approved by the California Air Resources Board in 2007. California semiconductor manufacturers were required, as of February 15, 2008, to submit inventories of GWG's. A second workshop on semiconductors is planned for April, with a final rule effective in 2010.

Electronics Regulation

New Jersey has a new Electronic Waste Recycling Act that prohibits the disposal of electronic equipment after January 1, 2010. The act requires manufacturers to register and pay fees to support recycling efforts. Companies may petition the state's Department of Environmental Protection to run their own recycling programs.

Washington State Department of Ecology has adopted a regulation that requires manufacturers to provide recycling of computers, televisions, and cathode ray tubes at no cost to homes, small businesses, charities and schools. The regulation goes into effect on January 1, 2009. The stated goal of this regulation is to provide an incentive for manufacturers to reduce the amount of toxic materials contained in the electronic products.

Want to shop for new electronic products because your Radio Shack 286 laptop is just not keeping up, then the EPA is here to help you, again. They have published an Electronic Product Assessment Tool. Computers and monitors, there are over 500 currently rated, are ranked as gold, silver, or bronze (just like the Olympics) based on meeting the IEEE 1680 standard. Never heard of the IEEE standard, then follow the link below.

We Were Just Beginning to Understand It

Did you know that OSHA's Hazardous Communication Standard is now 25 years old? The HazCom system requires chemical information, training, and labeling be provided to employees and contractors. Apparently, the OSHA system that we know and love is often neglected by employers, and seems to differ among other US agencies.

Here comes the United Nations to the rescue. A new worldwide system is headed your way. It's called the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), and is on its second edition. OSHA has provided a side-by-side comparison of the current HazCom system with the new GHS. Expect changes as we move from a performance based system to one that's "specification oriented", according to OSHA. Not to be outdone, the EPA has a slide show outlining the benefits of GHS. The move toward GHS will also affect regulations of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Department of Transportation. OSHA stopped accepting comments on the GHS back in 2006. No word yet on next steps, stay tuned.

New Spill Rules

Just when you thought the EPA had been asleep for the past 7 years, brace yourself for new spill regulations. Officially, the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Rule Amendments were proposed in December 2007.

There are several changes:

- Compliance date for oil storage facilities – July 1, 2009
- No written plan required for quantities between 1321 and 5000 gallons, facilities can use a template
- Written SPCC plan required, but self-certification between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons
- Exemptions allowed for some oil containing operational equipment

A link to the proposed amendments is provided; midnight reading at it's best.

Oil Prices Rising...

Time to trade in that Hummer or Urban Assault Vehicle? The EPA has modified its testing protocol to more closely resemble driving patterns. By going to the Fuel Economy web site you can find estimated fuel economies for most cars sold in the US. With a few clicks, you get mileage, annual costs (you can personalize the cost of fuel in your area, however, the sliding scale pegs out at \$5.00 per gallon), and your carbon footprint. Try it with the kids.

¹ *Welcome Back*, John Sebastian, Welcome Back Kotter TV show theme song, 1975.

Web Sites

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Semiconductor Page

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/semiconductors/semiconductors.htm>

CARB Lawsuit on GHG regulation

http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ccms/ab1493_v_cafe_study.pdf

New Jersey Electronics Regulation

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/A4000/3572_U1.PDF

State of Washington Electronics Regulation Fact Sheet

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0807008.pdf>

State of Washington Electronics Products Recycling Program

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707042.html>

EPA Electronic Product Assessment Tool

<http://www.epeat.net/>

IEEE 1680 Criteria Summary

<http://www.epeat.net/Criteria.aspx#criteriatable>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Globally Harmonized System of Classification & Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev02/02files_e.html

OSHA Comparison HazCom vs. GHS

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/GHSOSHAComparison.html>

EPA Benefits of GHS Slide Show

<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/ghs/benefitsof-ghs.pdf>

EPA Fact Sheet – SPCC Proposed Amendments

http://www.epa.gov/OEM/content/spcc/factsheet_overview_oct07.htm

SPCC Rule (Full Text)

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/October/Day-15/w19701.htm>

Fuel Economy Comparison

Click on Find and Compare Cars – Upper Left

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

Welcome Back Lyrics

<http://www.lyricsdownload.com/john-sebastian-welcome-back-lyrics.html>