

Invited Testimony

HB 143 “Advanced Recycling”

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Benefits of Recycling

Extend landfill life

Reduce greenhouse gas generation and emission

Maximize utilization of resources

Create jobs

Promotes circular economy



Background

Waste and Recycling in Alaska

In the state we have:

9 active Class I landfills (>20 tpd), 13 Class II landfills (5-20 tpd), and 184 Class III landfills

	MSW + CDD* tpy
Anchorage	320,000
Mat-Su	70,000
Fairbanks	90,000
Soldotna	60,000
Denali Borough	4,500
total	544,500

Recycling from these communities

Mainly residential sources

Commingled curbside, cardboard, newspaper, aluminum, PETE, HDPE

25-30,000 tons per year

~6,000 tons of which is commingled curbside recycling

Mainly commercial sources

Metals, concrete, asphalt, CDD

75-100,000 tons per year

*MSW – Municipal solid waste; CDD – Construction and demolition debris

HB 143 Analysis

Section 1 – Powers of the Department

(15) develop manufacturing regulations related to air emissions and water discharges by an advanced recycling facility.

Per the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, this section is unnecessary.

Air emissions regulated under
18 AAC 50 – Air Quality Control

Water discharges regulated under
18 AAC 72 – Wastewater Disposal
18 AAC 83 – Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

HB 143 Analysis

Section 2 – modifying definition of “industrial waste”

(11) "industrial waste" means a liquid, gaseous, solid, or other waste substance or a combination of them resulting from process of industry, manufacturing trade or business, or from the development of natural resources; **"industrial waste" does not include post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks at an advanced recycling facility or** [HOWEVER,] gravel, sand, mud, or earth taken from its original situs and put through sluice boxes, dredges, or other devices for the washing and recovery of the precious metal contained in them and redeposited in the same watershed from which it came [IS NOT INDUSTRIAL WASTE];

ADEC says this is unnecessary—post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks do not currently fall under the definition of “industrial waste”

HB 143 Analysis

Section 3 – modifying definition of “other wastes”

(17) "other wastes" means garbage, refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, trimmings from logging operations, sand, lime cinders, ashes, offal, oil, tar, dyestuffs, acids, chemicals, heat from cooling or other operations, and other substances not sewage or industrial waste **that [WHICH] may cause or tend to cause pollution of the waters of the state; "other wastes" does not include post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks at an advanced recycling facility**

ADEC says this is unnecessary—post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks do not fall under the definition of “other waste”

HB 143 Analysis

Section 4 – modifying definition of “solid waste”

(26) "solid waste" means garbage, refuse, **or** abandoned [,] or other discarded solid or semi-solid material, regardless of whether subject to decomposition, originating from any source; **"solid waste" does not include post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks at an advanced recycling facility**

This section excludes advanced recycling inputs from the definition of “solid waste”. This section, if approved, would give preferential treatment to advanced recycling activities and exempt them from the current law.

HB 143 Analysis

Section 5 – modifying definition of “solid waste disposal facility”

(27) "solid waste disposal facility" means a facility for the discharge, deposit, injection, consolidation, or placement of solid waste into or onto the land and includes transfer stations and sanitary landfills, **but does not include an advanced recycling facility**

This section is unnecessary as per ADEC, this term is referring to disposal of waste to land at a facility (most likely a landfill). The advanced recycling facility is not disposing of waste to the land.

HB 143 Analysis

Section 6 – modifying definition of “solid waste processing”

(28) "solid waste processing" means extraction of materials from solid waste, volume reduction, conversion to energy, or other separation and preparation of solid waste for reuse or disposal and includes processing by incinerators, shredders, balers, and transfer stations; **"solid waste processing" does not include the extraction of materials from solid waste through advanced recycling;**

This section excludes advanced recycling as it may otherwise be included for regulation under solid waste processing. This section, if approved, would give preferential treatment to advanced recycling activities and exempt them from the current law.

HB 143 Analysis

Section 7 - New definitions

If Sections 2-7 are not adopted, new definitions are not needed.

If any of Sections 2-7 are adopted, the definition of “advanced recycling”, and following definitions would be needed.

Some of the definitions are too narrowly defined to specifically refer to the advanced recycling process. The following definitions would need to be reconsidered for including other recycling operations currently employed in the state:

- gasification
- other recycled product
- pyrolysis
- recovered feedstock
- recycled plastics
- third-party certification system

HB 143 - Conclusion

- Many sections of the bill are already covered with existing regulations within the Alaska Department of Conservation
- Two sections (4 and 6) would preferentially exempt any future advanced recycling operation from definitions which the rest of the recycling and waste industries must comply
- If any of the sections 2-6 are adopted, the new definitions need to be modified to include existing industry practices