

3/25/09 telephone notes revised by J. Price 3/30/09
Dear Mr. Price,

Thank you for your time yesterday. I appreciate your openness and honesty in our discussion this morning on state regulations and motivations of companies to recycle. My project in Chile focuses more on the factory layout and organization. However, it is important to understand the broad picture of the business before focusing on the details of the floor plan. I anticipate gathering information from other recycling companies here in the United States before visiting Chile in August.

I want to be sure that you understand that I will hold everything you have said and sent to me confidential unless you give me explicit permission to discuss it. I have pasted my notes from this morning in this email, please tell me if I have misrepresented or misinterpreted what you said.

Thank you,

Liz Theurer

1. Phone Call Florida Department of Environmental Protection (25 March 2009 – 30 minutes) spoke with John Price, Environmental Manager

a. Regulation Structure in Florida and the United States

i. In Florida there are no mandated regulations for electronic waste recycling, however there are regulations that apply to the recycling or disposal of CRT, florescent lighting in flat panel displays and lead acid batteries.

ii. Voluntary State standard (“minimum vendor requirements”) (began in ~2001) – “the silver standard”

1. The state issued grants to counties to help initiate and support electronic waste recycling programs

2. In order to do recycling for counties that received grant money, e-scrap recycling companies were issued an identification number and required register, report insurance information and end-market information (final destination for the electronic scrap).

b. The state checks these reports for feasibility; but does not have adequate funding to perform a complete audit as is done by a third party for ISO 14001 certification.

3. 10 to 12 companies have been certified by the state

4. Expect to receive market reports from Mr. Price next week (_____)

a. Agreed not to release the markets to RECYCLA, although since this is public record, I am legally allowed to. Mr. Price said that some companies view this market information as business confidential so he asked me to advise him prior to releasing the information so that he could check with the e-scrap recycling companies as a courtesy to them.

As a researcher, I appreciate this.

i. Some companies filed an affidavit in replacement of revealing their market sources

ii. The markets that are hardest to find are those for CRT glass

iii. ISO 14.001 – a third party certification program – “the gold standard”

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1. Determines if a company is meeting environmental standards; checks all information through a company audit
2. Completely voluntary
3. Many Fortune 500 use this standard to as a requirement to do business
- b. Motivation for companies to recycle electronic waste
 - i. Profitable
 1. Often, companies are replacing functioning machines and equipment with the newer technology.
 2. This equipment is tested for functionality and then resold
 - ii. Part of contract
 1. Recycling or reselling is part of a contract with a computer supplier (such as Dell or Apple)
 - iii. Green Pressure
 1. Many companies feel the public pressure to be held accountable for their waste streams
 2. Embarrassment if equipment with the company logo is photographed burning in a third world country
 - a. The first BAN report included photographs of burning electronic equipment with school district logos and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - iv. Fines
 1. If companies illegally dump TV's or CRTs in landfills, they face the possibility of fines. These materials can be legally sent to a landfill as long as that landfill is permitted to accept these materials. There are no landfills in Florida that are permitted to accept these materials from e-scrap recyclers and other businesses.