



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Subject: Prohibition on landfilling CRTs and fluorescent bulbs and lamps

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of restrictions on the disposal of two types of hazardous waste in Wisconsin: equipment containing cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and certain types of light bulbs.

CRTs found in color computer monitors and television sets generally have been observed to contain lead at levels which make them a toxic hazardous waste, using the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). Under Wisconsin's hazardous waste rules, (s. NR 662.011, Wis. Adm. Code), a business or institution that discards any object or material is responsible for determining if it meets the definition of hazardous waste. It is illegal in Wisconsin to dispose of CRTs or other computer items that are hazardous waste in solid waste landfills and incinerators. However, household hazardous wastes are exempted from this ban.

As you may know, Minnesota banned disposal of CRTs from Minnesota landfills (Minn. Stat. 115A.9565), effective July 1, 2006. We are reminding you of Wisconsin's regulations because of our concern that Minnesota computers and CRTs may now, more than in the past, be disposed of or transported to Wisconsin landfills. As a landfill operator or owner, it is your responsibility to determine whether CRTs observed in a load are from a household or a non-household waste generator and you must be able to substantiate your determination should there later be any question about the source.

In addition, we would like to remind you that the prohibition on landfilling of hazardous wastes applies to all waste, regardless of state of origin. While CRTs are the only electronic waste item banned from Minnesota landfills at this time, virtually all electronics wastes contain potentially toxic or hazardous materials, although the levels may not exceed TCLP limits under current testing procedures.

Finally, we would like to remind you that waste fluorescent lamps and bulbs contain toxic metals such as lead and mercury at levels that may exceed the Wisconsin hazardous waste regulatory limits. The items below are subject to hazardous waste management regulations if they are generated by businesses or institutions, and should not be disposed of in Wisconsin landfills:

- Tube-style fluorescent bulbs
- Mercury vapor bulbs
- Metal halide bulbs
- High-pressure sodium vapor bulbs
- Low-pressure sodium vapor bulbs

Guidance on the proper management of these items is attached and is also available on our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/hazard/BulbrecyclingWA195-03.pdf>

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our landfills free of hazardous wastes.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bangert, Director
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management