

Mike Brady  
Visions Recycling  
[mike@visionsrecycling.com](mailto:mike@visionsrecycling.com)

Dear Mr. Brady:

Thank you for your email of March 15, 2004, to Administrator Leavitt regarding federal government purchasing of recycled content paint. I appreciate your interest in this subject and assure you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actively engaged in helping federal agencies purchase recycled content paint and other products made with recovered materials.

As background, EPA promotes government procurement of recycled products through the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) program. Under section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the President's Executive Order (E.O.) 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition," EPA issues guidelines for government procurement of products containing recovered materials. These guidelines identify and designate recycled products and provide recommendations to procuring agencies for purchasing these items. (The term "procuring agency" includes all federal agencies, any state and local government agencies that use appropriated federal funds to purchase the designated items, and contractors to these agencies.) Once designated, procuring agencies are required to buy the items with the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable. To date, EPA has designated 54 items, including reprocessed and consolidated latex paint for specific uses. (For more information on the latex paint designation and EPA's recommendations on how to purchase it, please visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products/paint.htm>.)

In addition to the recommendations we provide to procuring agencies on how to buy reprocessed and consolidated latex paint, we also maintain an online searchable database of vendors who sell or distribute CPG-designated products with recycled

content. This powerful tool allows procuring agencies and other users to search for vendors of a specific CPG product, product category, or type of material. Users can also search directly for a specific vendor by typing all or part of the vendor's name in a search field. We also have a small business search feature. I understand that your company, Visions Recycling, is listed in our database as a supplier of recycled latex paint. (To access the online supplier database, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/cpg/database.htm>.)

More information on actions taken across the federal government to implement RCRA 6002 and E.O. 13101 may be obtained from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE), which oversees agencies' compliance with the procurement requirements of both of these mandates. You may contact OFEE at 202-564-1297, or you may access the OFEE website at [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov).

EPA has identified green procurement and "greening the government" as one of six key program elements in the Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC), a major national effort to find flexible, yet more protective, ways to conserve our valuable resources. Through the RCC, our office is committed to continue working with OFEE and other federal agencies to improve green procurement by developing and distributing tools and models for use throughout the federal sector.

Again, thank you for your email. I share your concerns that we increase the use of recycled products and that procuring agencies implement both the statutory and Executive Order requirements to buy recycled products. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Sue Nogas of my staff at (703) 308-0199.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Springer, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

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