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From: Frank Conde <rachel@nascocorridor.com>
To: Selness, Cecil
CC:
Date: 8/31/2007 11:34 AM
Subject: NASCO Bulletin: EPA Studies RFID Tracking for Hazard Wastes
Attachments: TEXT.htm (31,961 bytes)

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NASCO Bulletin
Monitoring Major Transportation Developments in North America

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Friday, August 31, 2007

NASCO staff monitors major developments affecting the future of the freight transportation system in North America, highlighting their significance to the NASCOSuperCorridor and NASCOCoalition members, partners and supporters.

Below, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outlines its effort to undertake an RFID tracking, management and security study on U.S.-Mexico hazardous waste shipments, which, possibly, could result in a national hazardous waste tracking network producing near, real-time data on such shipments at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The above network mirrors additional services envisioned as potential, future offerings from the NASCO North America Facilitation of Transportation, Trade, Reduced Congestion and Security (NAFTRACS) RFID Sensor Network and Container RFID Sensor Instrumentation program now in advanced development by NASCO technology partners through the heartland of the U.S. and up to, at and through strategic locations at U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada border points.

EPA Studies RFID Tracking for Hazard Wastes; Mexico and Canada Reviewing the Project

If EPA decides to field RFID to track shipments of toxic waste, an official said she could envision a nationwide network at Canadian and Mexican border crossings, as well as truck weigh stations, providing EPA with real-time visibility into the movement of hazardous waste nationwide.

GOVERNMENTEXECUTIVE.COM NEWS

By Bob Brewin

Of Government Executive www.govexec.com [http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=0015CHOPLu_LIXHe_qu48oQ_hzSU50YknRgmMz5c8O5t6JjWKyCQkbwi0UtJzkZQvVuk9TopcQk-xsl3j6Vi4H4-24HvDa1FGpDNI4jq3xipqww1-fsUV4LtQ==]

Thursday, August 30, 2007

The Environmental Protection Agency announced plans [http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=0015CHOPLu_LIWLYH2PbtHUOaSO8W3cO9Wv2ApiJp8fKn9Ep-hk0MAaGqzlhfeS5L4WndvRBdgiAb8xz8SyXsixNqfrTCv2z6T4kGBXq04s5hsXD-D1hJl4gicWCWbzWucVrk8pQOGLFZ48ZnBSwjKnnUHCbaUID6Us0h3Q4Q-L8OCWe_-qFooQtB6S1Gx3j46gDnFrhaYhU=] last week to test the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to track the shipment of chemicals and hazardous waste from Mexico to disposal facilities in the United States.

Hazardous waste generated by Mexican manufacturing plants near the U.S.-Mexico border that use raw materials from the U.S. must be disposed of inside the U.S. under provisions [http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=0015CHOPLu_LIXWtJ5E_Iz2px1JnpFUAhBqvVXM6ZyUFWmOuPn893wE7AgL0EDfLMdtjPCch7NDnG88Z9zOO_1P_inmaNVs5HuUyVK03peSDuoBg76j5bxBvBCr9je3ML8rr8ycEOrAnZRmTMFW46bcZjzTLWSPCQa] of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

But the EPA currently has no means of tracking those shipments, said Deborah Kopsick, an environmental scientist with EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

If RFID proves viable, Kopsick said, it would provide the EPA "with a better handle on waste shipments [including] where it enters the United States and when it gets to a disposal facility."

She said the EPA would like to test RFID tags and readers from as many as 10 vendors at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico U.S.-Mexico border crossing early in 2008 to determine whether the technology can meet the agency's requirements, which are challenging for RFID vendors.

For example, Kopsick said EPA wants to determine if RFID readers can translate tags (sens
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