Nine million pounds of CRT glass abandoned in Arizona

By Bobby Elliott, Resource Recycling

An investigation by the Basel Action Network (BAN) alleges that a firm tasked with recycling CRT glass from California has abandoned more than nine million pounds of the glass in three warehouses located in Yuma, Arizona — a significant portion of which came from state-regulated firms in neighboring California.

The company allegedly responsible for the dumping, Dow Management, was paid more than $581,000 from a California state recycling fund to responsibly recycle the CRT glass, according to a BAN press release. The firm has since been shuttered and Dow "principles are nowhere to be found," according to the Seattle-based watchdog organization.

BAN's report was supported by additional reporting and video footage from CBS News in California and echoes an earlier report by E-Scrap News, which unearthed abandoned warehouses of CRT glass in several states, including Dow's Arizona warehouses. E-Scrap News reported that more than six million pounds of CRTs had been dumped at two Dow warehouses in Yuma. BAN's report suggests that three Dow warehouses may hold more than nine million pounds of the hazardous waste.

The companies responsible for supplying Dow with the CRTs have now been asked by California state officials to retrieve the waste and ship it elsewhere to be properly processed. The suppliers had been paid $3.6 million by the state's recycling agency, CalRecycle, and at least $581,000 of that sum went to Dow, according to BAN's release.

Jim Puckett, BAN's executive director, called into question why state and federal regulators had taken so long to act. "When regulators don't regulate and prosecutors don't prosecute, people get hurt and criminals rule the roost," Puckett stated.