

DRAFT MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

May 11, 2022
Covanta Alexandria/Arlington Waste-to-Energy Facility – Eisenhower Avenue
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

The Facility Monitoring Group, City and County Staff, and HDR representatives present for the meeting included Helen Lee, Erik Grabowsky, Philip Pugh, Emily Hughes, Vijetha Huffman, Morgan Routt, Alaeedin Mohamed, Kyle Perrin, and Dan Domato. Don Cammarata and Lucas Dushac attended the meeting from Covanta. This FMG Meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

I. Comments on Agenda

There were no edits made to the agenda. Lee made a motion to approve, Grabowsky seconded. All in favor of approval.

II. Approval of Final Minutes from the February 23rd, 2022 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting.

Pg. 5 – Change wording to ‘Governor Youngkin considering removal from RGGI’

Pg. 7 – Change wording to ‘Continued discussion to include Skrabek’

With those edits to the final meeting minutes, Grabowsky made a motion to approve, Hughes seconded. All in favor of approval.

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$11,805.75. The sole invoice was the invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period January 30th, 2022 to April 23rd, 2022 in the amount of \$11,805.75.

Mohamed had received and reviewed the invoice from HDR and approved the accuracy. Lee will send approve for rate schedule increase and HDR will provide the final invoice. Lee made the motion for approval. Grabowsky seconded. All in favor of approval.

IV. Operations and Facility Status

A. Summary of Plant Operations (by Covanta)

Dushac provided an update on the Plant Operations since the previous meeting: Dushac discussed the Facility's Environmental and Safety Highlights: There were no environmental exceedances. Annual stack testing was completed in March, all three units were within thresholds and parameters. There were no injuries or incidents during the previous quarter.

Dushac discussed Facility Maintenance: Unit 3 major outage was completed in January; during which they installed the LN system. The new emissions limit goes into effect on June 29th. The new ferrous magnet was installed in February. Unit 2 major outage was completed in February; during which they replaced the baghouse fabric filter bags and tubesheets. Unit 1 major outage was completed in March.

Grabowsky asked what they do with the old bags. Dushac responded saying that the bags were sent out for disposal. Grabowsky asked where exactly. Dushac to follow up.

Lee asked for an update on the exterior siding cleaning schedule. Dushac stated that cleaning is expected to start on May 13th. The contractors are currently going through the enrollment and safety process. Lee thanked Dushac for the quick turn around and asked if there is a normal schedule in place for exterior cleaning. Dushac responded stating that the cleanings should be performed every 3-4 years, they should be rotating cleaning through all areas of the Facility. The roof damage and window damage the past few years has delayed their normal cleaning schedule.

Grabowsky asked where the exterior buildup is coming from. Dushac responded with the intake on the louvers and pulling air into the Facility. Another potential from power outages that have caused the Facility to lose intake fans and may have caused material to leave.

Dushac discussed the current staffing at the Facility. The auxiliary operator is very competitive in the region and typically hard to fill. There have been new hires and resignations. Dushac to confirm that there are currently four open positions for the auxiliary operator. Dushac is moving to Fairfax, a role for Facility manager position in June will be open.

Lee asked what the auxiliary operator position is responsible for. Dushac responded that they are the personnel who are physically observing the operations of the plant (as compared to the control room operator). They can currently fill the four shifts with other personnel.

B. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date (by HDR)

Domato discussed the Quarterly Report and Performance Trends. There were multiple boiler outages in Q3FY22 (See Pages 24 through 26 of the Quarterly Report). There were scheduled outages on all three units; Unit 3 in January, Unit 2 in February, Unit 1 in March. There were two

unscheduled events: one outage on Unit 1 (waterwall tube failure in February) and a common outage across the Facility (feedwater leak and repair in March). All units were on standby in January due to a water main break.

Grabowsky requested HDR to discuss Item 19 on deficiency list: A hole in boiler casing was noted and that CAAI is aware as it is taped off. Dushac mentioned that when that hole was discovered, wool was stuffed in hole to address it temporarily. Last week when Unit 3 had a cleaning outage this item was repaired. The 3rd pass generation bank, and the walls of that section of the boiler are just metal. Capital funding is budgeted every year to replaced sections of worn/damaged metal. Grabowsky asked if the hole is an indication of other issues on the boiler walls/structure. Dushac said that it is a common occurrence, usually from explosive blasting. Explosive blasting is needed to get the boilers clean and conditioned for an outage. Grabowsky asked how this repair is normally completed. Dushac said that they will inspect all areas around the hole and only weld to good metal. Grabowsky questioned the process of tube replacement, whether it would be a patch or whole replacement. Dushac responded saying that generally UT readings are taken, and a decision is made based on thickness readings

In Q3FY22, the average boiler availability was 89.4%, this is in line with previously fiscal years; this is the lowest period of availability during the year due to the scheduled outages. For FY22 the average boiler availability is 95.7%. In Q2FY22, the Facility processed 80,255 tons of waste. See in Chart 1, the monthly MSW processing rate were in line with previous fiscal years. Total Waste Deliveries were slightly higher than the previous two fiscal years through Q2 (Chart 8 page 18).

In Q3FY22, ash generation returned to the expected rates with current metals processing procedures was slightly lower than last year (Chart 2 Page 11). In Q3FY22, ferrous recovery averaged 2.8% (as a percentage of waste processed), this is down from the expected average of 3.1% and was due to the lower efficiency of the temporary magnet. The new magnet was installed in February, and in March (first full month of operation) the ferrous recovery rate was 3.1%. (Chart 3 Page 11).

In Q3FY22, the steam production was consistent to the previous Q3s, despite more downtime this quarter (Chart 4 Page 12). In Q3FY22, gross and net electric generation were comparable to the previous fiscal years. See Chart 12 (Page 20), the Facility averaged 423 kWh/ton which was consistent with the previous fiscal years. Turbine Steaming Rate at 11.94 lbs/kWh is slightly higher (lower performance) than the previous two fiscal years. The common outage in March negatively impacted the quarterly average.

Domato discussed the performance trends through April 2022. Reviewing NOx Emission and

Ammonia Usage (from performance summary): Ammonia usage was reduced in Q3FY22 compared to the previous 6+ months. Will continue monitoring ammonia usage as LN system operations normalize. NOx Emissions at around 110 ppm for the Facility average (85 ppm on Units 1 and 2; and 160 ppm on Unit 3).

Domato provided an update to Table 1 (Page 8 and 9) Report Deficiencies: HDR performed a walk-through on April 28th. Items to be removed from the list (completed): Item 8 – roof ventilation fan above Unit 3, Item 9 – fly ash flap valves locked open, Item 17 – feedwater pipe leak, Item 19 – Casing leak. New items added to the punch list: Item 20 – material buildup on exterior siding of Facility.

Grabowsky asked for an update on the LN timeline. Dushac responded that the installation on Unit 3 was in January. They are currently in the testing/commissioning phase starting in April and May. Covanta has a better understanding of setpoints after commissioning Units 1 and 2. By June, will be in normal operation for LN on the system. Certification in July. Lee asked if Covanta was preparing a press release. Cammarata responded that they are working on one and suggested a joint release.

Huffman noted that the boiler make-up water was 30% high in Q3FY22 compared to Q3FY21. Dushac responded that this was due to the feedwater repairs.

V. Covanta Items

A. Update on LN System

Dushac discussed the LN system status. Unit 1 and Unit 2 in continuous and normal operation with the LN system in service; production around 85 ppm of NOx emissions. As mentioned before, Unit 3 was installed in January. The commissioning is planned for May. Certification on schedule for end of June.

B. Supplemental Waste

There was no update to provide on this matter.

VI. Old Business

A. Battery Education

Grabowsky spoke with Anne Germain of the NWRA (National Waste and Recycling

Association) and John Snarr from Metro Washington COG (Council of Governments). COG is preparing for a regional battery campaign (social media, etc.) in the Fall. They are looking for support from Covanta on this campaign. The FMG will ensure that COG reaches out to Covanta. Arlington County is developing internal policies for handling of lithium batteries. City of Alexandria will be supporting that fall campaign; City will also be doing an informational mailer and website this summer.

VII. New Business

A. Legislative Issues

For SB250 – changes to waste fees through VDEQ: this bill was vetoed by Governor Youngkin. Covanta and HDR are unclear of the next steps.

B. Public Initiatives

Cammarata will send the FMG and HDR a list of public initiatives from the previous quarter. Dushac added that they gave a tour in March with 7th grade scout troop. Grabowsky asked what the current policy is for Facility tours. Cammarata responded that they are still limited to 10 guests for tours. They are regularly getting requests for tours.

Covanta's Public Outreach Initiatives:

- Jan 2022: Wreaths Across America – disposal of 100 tons of wreaths from Arlington National (January 2022)
- Jan 2022: Sponsor of the Ascend Environmental Club at Alexandria HS
- Mar 2022: Renewed membership of the Eisenhower Partnership
- Apr 2022: Hosted local Girl Scout Troop 60085 for an educational session on the waste hierarchy and how to recycle properly.
- April 2022: Attended Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
- April 2022: Earth Day Event - Cleaned Local parks as a part of Earth Day (Cameron Park and Ben Brenman Park), and along Eisenhower Ave near Covanta and Van Dorn Station
- May 2022: Provided assured destruction services for VA drug take back days
- May 2022: Awarded \$2500 scholarship as a part of Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

C. Annual Executive Summary

HDR has sent the final draft Annual Executive Summary to the FMG and Covanta for review. Grabowsky made a motion to approve. Lee seconded. All in favor of approval.

D. Open Discussion

There is a new City Manager and new City council members, who started recently. They have already toured department operations and will want to tour the WTE Facility. Covanta will help and support arranging time for tours. Targeting late summer/early fall, will need to set up as a 2 by 2 tour.

Covanta asked if we should have the next meeting in-person or virtual? Both options are available. August's meeting will be kept virtual, and the FMG will consider having November's meeting in-person.

On a motion by Lee, seconded by Grabowsky, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th, 2022 and will be held as a virtual meeting.