

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group**  
**MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Covanta Alexandria/Arlington Waste-to-Energy Facility – Eisenhower Avenue**  
**8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

The Facility Monitoring Group, staff, and HDR representatives present included Yon Lambert, Mark Schwartz, Erik Grabowsky, Morgan Routt, Emily Hughes, Barbara Wiley, Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, William Skrabak, Kyle Perrin and Susan Raila, with Don Castro joining via phone. Mark Harlacker, Rich Serio, R.J. Brooks, Glenn Madelmayer, Frazier Blaylock, and Bryan Donnelly attended the meeting from Covanta.

**I. Comments on Agenda**

There were no comments on the agenda.

**II. Approval of Final Minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).**

Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes; Grabowsky seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. Requisitions for Payment**

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$15,304.67. The invoices were for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period January 25, 2015 to May 2, 2015 in the amount of \$14,762.31, and Yon Lambert’s expenses for attending the Covanta Partner’s meeting, for \$542.36. Schwartz made a motion to approve payment pending submission of the detailed expenses, and Grabowsky seconded. The invoices were approved unanimously, and the detailed expenses were provided on May 19th.

**IV. HDR - Operations and Facility Status**

Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro first discussed the performance curves, noting that there was less steam produced from each ton of waste. This trend has been decreasing by a couple of percentage points since October 2014. This may be significant, and an eye should be kept on this metric. Castro noted that the rest of the performance criteria were positive. Ash production remains very low, which is good. The net electrical generation was a little low, and the facility continues to operate in accordance with its steam permit restriction. Schwartz questioned the concern over steam production, and Castro responded that the concern is that the boilers are less efficient than in the past. Serio also noted that the BTU value of the waste has decreased, and that is why they would like to bring in materials that would burn hotter. Madelmayer also added that Covanta is looking at various potential leaks to improve system efficiency, checking the steam piping, soot blower and other systems. Donnelly also noted that they want to minimize any environmental concerns. Grabowsky asked if “throttling” back on tonnages in order to keep the steam limit under the regulatory limit was an issue, and Donnelly noted that it was an issue when they need to reduce load to the boilers to meet the rolling steam limitation. They reiterated that it is difficult to meet that rolling steam limit, and that the methodology utilized by Virginia DEP, whereby a calculated value for HHV, which is higher than in reality is used, doesn’t make sense.

Castro then discussed the emissions from the latest round of stack testing, and noted that the emissions were excellent, remaining at extremely low levels. Schwartz asked about the NOx emissions, and Castro stated that the facility has been operating to meet a 160 ppmdv level, and that they can’t really get much below that with the existing equipment and that Covanta has done a good job to maintain that level.

Perrin then mentioned the latest outage, and noted that Covanta did a good job getting a lot of work done during the latest outage. He went through the items on Table 1: Summary of Audit Report Deficiencies, and indicated that items 5 and 6 relating to the ceiling panels should be closed out by the next meeting. The tip floor wall still requires some more work, and other items are also being worked on currently. He mentioned that the soot blower gears are exposed, and a discussion was held on the type of guard, if any, needs to be in place, given that its 7 feet from the ground. Covanta noted that they are cleaning up from their spring outages.

## **V. Covanta Items**

### **A. Further Discussion on Steaming Rate**

Serio stated that the steaming rate issue has already been discussed, and they are actively

pursuing higher BTU waste. Covanta is not currently proposing to bring in any additional waste, and the issue has been tabled, and this issue will be removed from the agenda. Grabowsky asked about the truck queues during the outages, and Covanta admitted that they are playing catch-up. Madelmayer said that waste deliveries have been up in the past 5 to 6 weeks, and there was a big jump in the amount of waste brought in in April. He noted that they are throttling back on what they are taking in at the present time.

B. Supplemental Waste

From materials provided by Covanta, it was noted that the type of special waste has remained fairly stable consisting primarily of textiles, pharmaceuticals, confidential documents and APHIS waste. However the facility accepted several deliveries from ICE RECYCLING in April, since they typically go to Fairfax, but since they were in the midst of an outage, those loads were diverted to Alexandria. The amount of supplemental waste in February was 336 tons; March, 272 tons, and April, 613 tons.

C. Quantification of New Development Waste

Brooks indicated that there is no way to specifically track the amount of waste from new developments, since a truck load can come from a number of separate areas. The facility's scale system can only track customer accounts, which don't separate out the origin of material. Grabowsky indicated that he was looking for a general estimate for that amount.

D. Gray Water Reuse – update on costs

Madelmayer informed the group that the capital cost was about \$150K to \$200K to run a line from the street to the cooling tower. The project doesn't seem to be beneficial to Covanta, from an economic standpoint. He noted that it was economically feasible in Fairfax, but may not be in Alexandria, and they do not want to commit to the reuse project at this time. They said that they would circle back to AlexRenew to see if anything changes, but for now this topic will be taken off of the agenda.

E. Update on Emergency Contact Sheet

Covanta has been updating the emergency contact sheet, and Lambert noted that contacts for a biological emergency should be added to the list. The list will be emailed to Raila, and the FMG can note any changes they would like made.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. City update on Eisenhower West Planning Process**

Brooks has been attending the meetings on the Eisenhower West planning effort. Madelmayer asked if there was an overlay of the existing transportation network, and Lambert responded that yes there was, and he would share it with Covanta. He also noted that it was very preliminary at this point in time.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Legislative Issues**

Blaylock reported on the 111(d) ruling where there is a focus on waste-to-energy as a mitigation tool to meet carbon reduction rules. She noted that waste-to-energy needs to be recognized as a carbon mitigation tool. Regarding new MACT limits, she said that they expect to see new MACT limits this year, and that Covanta is cautiously optimistic that they will be realistic limits. However, they may need help from local governments if things don't go so well. There should be a draft rule by the end of 2015, and she noted that there was an ERC call on this issue the day after the meeting.

### **B. Public Initiatives**

Covanta provided a list of public outreach since the last meeting, which included the following:

- February 4 – provided a tour to two sales reps from Fastenall.
- February 6 – provided a tour to Peter Drown, a local citizen with an interest in WTE and power plants.
- February 20 – provided a tour to 8 people from Accenture. They are part of an Ecoteam and want to educate their staff on the waste-to-energy process.
- February 24 – the facility and Jessica Dowell hosted a tour to Bennet Becker, Corporate Health, Safety and Environmental Technical Associate from Eastman and Ray Strauss, Account Manager from Ecoflow.
- February 25 – provided a tour to three representatives from the Loudon County Sheriff's Department who are interested in bringing material from the Rx 4 Safety Drug Take Back program.
- March 16 – provided a tour to Tim Olupona and another representative who were meeting with the Nigerian government on waste-to-energy as a waste disposal option for their country.
- March 16 – provided a tour to 23, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Capitol Hill Day School.
- March 20 – provided a tour to 18 people from Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE).
- March 31 – provided a tour to 6 representatives from the Stafford R-Board.
- April 1 – provided a tour for 5 interns from ACORE.
- April 8 – provided a tour for Episcopal High School's AP Environmental Science

class with 11 students.

- April 10 – provided a tour for 10 students from an AP Environmental Science Class at H-B Woodlawn.
- April 18 – facility representatives participated in the Arlington E-care event and provided gift cards to residents dropping off mercury devices and give-away totes.
- April 13 – facility representatives participated in TSA Headquarters Earth Day event and provided giveaways to attendees.
- April 24 – facility representatives participated in Alexandria Earth Day event and provided giveaways to residents.

Lambert acknowledged Mark Schwartz' tenure with the FMG, and formerly as an Alexandria/Arlington Waste Disposal Trust Fund trustee, as this was his last day on the FMG.

**On a motion by Routt, seconded by Grabowsky, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.**

**The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 at the Covanta Facility.**