

DRAFT MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

May 8th, 2019
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 Jeffrey DuVal, Emily Hughes, Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, Kyle Perrin, and Susan Raila, with Erik Grabowsky and Don Castro calling into the meeting. Bryan Donnelly and Don Cammarata attended the meeting from Covanta.

I. Comments on Agenda

The only comment on the agenda was to add Covanta’s request to change the receiving time at the Facility.

II. Approval of Final Minutes from the February 13th, 2019 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).

Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes; Grabowsky seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously (with Morgan Routt providing his approval via email on May 13th, 2019).

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$15,698.38. The sole invoice was the invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period February 3, 2019 to April 27, 2019, in the amount of \$15,698.38. Hughes made a motion to approve the payment, Grabowsky seconded, and the invoices were approved unanimously (with Morgan Routt providing his approval via email on May 13th, 2019).

IV. HDR - Operations and Facility Status

A. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro discussed the quarterly report, and noted that April was a normal month although

there was a short outage for a tube leak. The 3rd quarter report was a period normally characterized by improved turbine generator performance. However, there were major outages during this time period, including 404 hours of scheduled downtime for the boilers, with maintenance focused on corrosion issues. Throughput during the quarter averaged 914tpd, which is 94% of capacity, and the amount processed has been nearly identical to the prior 2 years. Compared to last year, the amount of steam produced was down by 4.5% and electricity was down by 2.7%. The reduction of steam was because of the reduced heating value of the waste (down by 4.2%), so not due to any performance issues at the facility.

Castro noted that the recovery of ferrous metals remains outstanding, especially since comparable facilities have more elaborate layouts and space to recover metals. Castro mentioned the change in the waste stream, having a lower heat content, but Donnelly said that it was due to a lot of rain. He pointed out Chart 6 of the Quarterly report, which showed the steam production, on a reference ton basis, was trending higher, which indicates that the boilers are doing a good job. The amount of Supplemental Waste was a little less, but still at around 3% of the overall waste processed. Chart 9 shows that the gross electrical generation was somewhat less than in prior years. Castro noted that there was somewhat less turbine generator downtime this year, and that overall, for the quarter, there was good performance and good consistency.

Perrin then went through the deficiencies on Table 1 of the quarterly report, and mentioned that the road striping was the only item on the list which had been taken care of. There were, however, a couple of new deficiencies noticed during his inspection. A roof ventilation fan over the deaerator was out, although new higher performance fans will be installed next year, and he noted that there was paint chipping in that area. The stair treads were missing in the cooling towers, and handrail supports were cracking, which are safety concerns. Additionally, there is a rain gutter which is detaching. The scheduled outages are over, however, and the facility has been cleaned up.

V. Covanta Items

A. Update on LN system

Cammarata stated that there is nothing new to report. They now know how many nozzles need to be installed, and where they would be positioned. He indicated that it would take 10 to 12 days to get the work done. DuVal indicated that the Jurisdictions would review the materials sent, and provide a response if appropriate.

B. Update on Steaming Rate Issue

Covanta indicated that any further discussions with the VADEQ have been put on hold until the City and County managers and the elected officials have been briefed on the issue. DuVal and Grabowsky will work to set up meetings with Mark Jinks and Mark Schwartz, followed by meetings with the elected officials. DuVal also requested that a tour be set up for new staff.

C. Annual Stack Testing

Castro stated that the stack test results through 2019 have been very, very good, and consistent with prior performance. He noted that dioxins and furans are one of the lowest levels of any facility in the industry. NO_x is at around 78% of its permit limit, and this limit will be halved once the LN system is fully installed. The CO number is good, and has been consistent from year to year. Lead and Cadmium levels are almost at a non-detectable level. Grabowsky asked about potentially posting the numbers on-line, and Cammarata indicated that he will check with his legal department.

D. Ash – Update on the Mobile Unit

Cammarata said that the unit which was moved from the landfill may return to the site over the summer. Covanta had talked to the DEQ regarding metals recovery.

As an aside, Donnelly mentioned that after several months of lowering the dolomitic lime usage, they now plan to only use pebble lime moving forward, as the ash testing still looks good.

E. Supplemental Waste

As noted in prior meetings, the type of supplemental waste continues to be the same, primarily documents requiring destruction and pharmaceuticals. Deliveries of supplemental waste were: 743 tons in February, 885 tons in March, and 895 tons in April.

Covanta mentioned that they had done a drug take-back event, and Grabowsky asked if these events have any impact on emissions. Donnelly responded that there is no impact on emissions, and the material is mixed with other waste. Take-back materials are hopper-fed, and not dumped into the pit with general waste.

F. Request for Change of Facility Closing Time

Covanta had added to the agenda their request to move the closing time of the facility from 6pm to 5pm. Even though only a few trucks deliver waste after 5pm, Arlington's contract with American Disposal Services allows the company until 5pm to pick up waste within the County, so they could not necessarily dispose of their loads at the facility by that time. However, Grabowsky asked Covanta if there is some technology that would allow for remote access, so that the scalehouse would not need to be manned.

VI. Old Business

A. Air Quality Report/ Eisenhower West Plan Implementation Update

Not much has changed since the last meeting. It was mentioned that the Victory Center was purchased.

VII. New Business

A. Legislative Issues

There were no legislative issues to discuss.

B. Public Initiatives

Covanta's public outreach included the following:

- February 13 – hosted a tour for three Washington and Lee High School teachers.
- February 14 – provided a tour for 11 people from the City of Alexandria Department of Health.
- February 28 – hosted a tour for 14 Washington and Lee High School students and teachers.
- March 9 and April 2 – Kevin McGunnigle attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on behalf of the facility.
- March 14 – hosted a tour for Meghan French and 12 high school students in the environmental science class from HB Woodlawn.
- March 28 – hosted a tour for 7 DOE employees in the ACORE group, set up by Kimberly Swan.
- April 4 – hosted a tour for 12 students in a local boiler operations course, set up by Anthony Cason.
- April 12 – hosted a tour for 12 students in an environmental science class from Northern Virginia Community College and their professor Deborah Shaffer.
- April 12 – hosted a tour for Emma Tillitski, a senior at UVA writing her senior thesis on a comparison of WTE architecture in the US and Denmark.
- April 23 – hosted a tour to 10 AP Environmental Science students from St. Stephens/St. Agnes Episcopal High School and their teacher, Julie Crane.
- April 26 – hosted a tour to 8 students from Johns Hopkins University and their professor Thomas Jenkins.

At the end of the meeting DuVal mentioned that Covanta took part in Alexandria's Earth Day event and the electric Leaf car, was wrapped in a new logo.

On a motion by Hughes, seconded by Grabowsky, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th, 2019 at the Covanta Facility.