

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

**Wednesday, August 21st, 2013**  
**Alexandria Maintenance Facility, Business Center Drive**  
**8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

The Facility Monitoring Group, staff, and HDR representatives present included Yon Lambert, Morgan Routt, Mark Schwartz, Erik Grabowsky, Alaeedin Mohamed, Barbara Wiley, Alton Weaver, William Skrabak, Kyle Perrin and Susan Raila, with Don Castro joining via phone. 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 June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).**

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

**III. Requisitions for Payment**

The requisitions for payment for the June and July 2013 invoices that were submitted for approval totaled \$110,589.74. This included the June/July HDR Engineering, Inc. invoice for \$19,351.83, the June 2013 ARCADIS invoice for \$48,357.50, the July 2013 ARCADIS invoice for \$42,701.41, and the Covanta invoice for the Covanta Energy Partner's Conference, for \$179.00. Schwartz made a motion to approve the invoices, Routt seconded, and the invoices were approved unanimously.

**IV. HDR Operations and Facility Status**

Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro noted that FY12 and FY13 were similar, in terms of the quantity of waste

processed. There was an increase in downtime for maintenance due to the turbine maintenance, but steam production was up a bit in FY13, with the waste burning a bit hotter. A little less electricity was generated, however, due to the turbine generator outage. Covanta is scheduled to take the other turbine out in the near future as well. The overall data from year to year were fairly consistent, and Covanta kept within the steam permit limitations.

Overall, approximately seven percent more ferrous was recovered this year, and the other major improvement had to do with shipping less ash to the landfill. There was a substantial reduction in boiler maintenance, and the turbine generator outage only occurs every 6 or 7 years.

Grabowsky asked about Table 1 in the report, which summarizes facility deficiencies, and it was noted that two of the five open items have been closed since the report was prepared. Two additional items will also be taken care of in the short term. The columns have been repaired, and the asphalt work that needs to be done by the scalehouse will be taken care of next week. Schwartz asked how the skylights were working out, and Donnelly responded that it has been a major improvement to the tipping floor area.

Skrabak mentioned that it should be made clear in the report that the NOVs mentioned on page 8-9, are issued to the haulers. Castro then went through the performance curves (through July 2013), and noted that July had been a wetter month, resulting in the tonnage going up, but the steam production going down. The heating value of the waste was at a 3-year low. Donnelly mentioned that the “black plant” situation had occurred, which was when they couldn’t export power to the grid. Perrin then discussed his recent inspection. The next round of outages will be in September for boiler no. 1, October for boiler no. 3, and in November for boiler no. 2. He noted that emergency lighting has been installed in the SDA room, and that in the ash bay load-out area, grooves had been cut into the pavement to cut down on the slipperiness of the area. Perrin mentioned that Covanta is ahead of the curve on dealing with waste deliveries, and the can handle 28,000 to 32,000 tons in a month. Grabowsky asked that the FMG be notified whenever there are lines at the facility.

Schwartz asked about the 107% capacity utilization, and Castro responded that the nominal capacity of the boilers is 975 tpd, but Covanta has been able to operate at 5 to 10% over that capacity, because there was margin built into the original design. Grabowsky asked about the steam production numbers, and Castro stated that they are getting more energy out of the boilers, and producing more steam. There are still concerns with the 12-month rolling average for steam production, and keeping under the permitted limit. Perrin then noted that the ferrous magnet will be re-skinned, which is the first time since it was installed in 2007. It will be

replaced within the next few months.

Lambert asked for a breakdown of the tonnage of “special waste” being brought to the facility. Donnelly indicated that it consisted of military uniforms, and they have expanded their marketing to bring in pharmaceuticals. Covanta is also trying to get secret documents from Washington DC. Grabowsky commended Covanta on their stellar safety record.

## **V. Covanta Items**

### **A. Results of Ammonia Slip Test**

Donnelly was asked for a comparison of the 2006 results compared to the 2012 results, and he indicated that the slip was higher in this round of testing, but since an analyzer was out of service, more ammonia was injected. Castro asked why Covanta would do the slip test while the analyzer was out, and Donnelly indicated that there was poor communication with the testing team, and they weren't on top of the slip sequence. The result was that the slip numbers collectively tripled from 2006, but was primarily attributable to unit no.3 that the numbers went up so much. Donnelly noted that the NOx values were still lowered, and Skrabak said that there might be a very slight blue haze at night when it's clear out, and that he would keep an eye out for that.

### **B. Baghouse Bag Disposal Issue**

This issue arose when Covanta requested that the FMG support them on maintaining the current practice of disposing the bags on-site at the facility, and Skrabak asked with the standard operating procedure was at the plant. Donnelly indicated that the used bags are mixed in the pit, and that a bag change-out occurs every 3 or 4 years, with the next change-out scheduled for 2014.

## **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Legislative Issues**

There were no legislative issues to discuss.

Public Initiatives

Tours of the facility for the past two months included a tour by a group from ACORE, a group of students from Johns Hopkins University, a few more tours which will occur later in the month of August.

**On a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Routt, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.**

**The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at the Covanta Facility.**