

FINAL MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

Wednesday, February 12th, 2014
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, Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, William Skrabak, Mike Clem, Kyle Perrin and Susan Raila, with Don Castro joining via phone. Michael Renga 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 November 13th, 2014 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).

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

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$23,681.27. They included an invoice from HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period November 3, 2013 to January 25, 2014 for \$11,789.75. Additionally, there were two invoices from ARCADIS, one was for \$4,709.50 and the other, which was not included on the agenda, was for \$6,432.02. There was also an invoice from the Energy Recovery Council for the annual membership dues for \$750.00. Schwartz requested more detail on the two ARCADIS invoices before they would be approved for payment, and made a motion to approve payment on the remaining invoices, which Routt seconded. The HDR and ERC invoices were approved unanimously.

IV. HDR Operations and Facility Status

Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro noted that more waste was handled, but less steam and electricity were produced than the same quarter last year, because the heating value of the waste was lower. These parameters were also skewed because of the turbine generator overhaul, so it was an unusual quarter in terms of performance metrics. There were five separate instances of standby time because of bumping up against the steam permit limits, which was a very unusual level of standby. Each time a unit is put into standby, it has to cool down, and then heat back up, and there is the possibility of using more fuel oil, etc. The cap on steam production of 3.3 lbs. of steam per ton has been a challenge. Donnelly indicated that they want to spread out the standby time over the course of a full year of operation. He said that there are two ways of holding to the limit, either by firing hard, and then going on standby, or by firing at a lower rate over the duration, all while taking into account the seasonality and moisture in the waste.

Castro mentioned the environmental excursion, which was a spike in CO, which was not excusable. Donnelly responded that this occurred due to operator error, that this was a person new to this position, and that Covanta is taking this excursion seriously. He also noted that there was not a corrosion issue with the turbine generator blade, but that fatigue was the problem. Castro also noted that Covanta is doing a good job with the magnet, since it has been re-skinned, and that they are back up to 3% removal of ferrous.

Castro discussed the fact that ammonia consumption is up, while holding the same set point on NOx, so they are either burning waste with higher nitrogen content, or there are some inefficiencies in the NOx control system. Donnelly stated that they checked the injection nozzles, and that something else is going on. Castro asked if there is something in the Supplemental waste that would make a difference, and Covanta didn't think that was the case, and they are continuing to look at the issue. Renga did mention that they are looking to accept agricultural waste from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and other airport waste. They are also looking at brokered MSW, such as waste from Costco, but they don't know what the impact on NOx would be. Covanta was asked if they had thought of going back to the DEQ for a change in calculating the steaming rate.

Perrin then discussed his inspection of the facility from the prior day. He indicated that there were no additional deficiencies, but did note some minor issues, such as the condition of some of the signs being poor, and some of the fire extinguishers had expired in January.

Additionally, there were some grate bars lying around, and Donnelly said that they still have to check them all out, prior to them being refurbished. Scaffolding is also in place for an outage during the first two weeks of March. Covanta stated that they have built a new loading dock which is mostly for the receipt of Special Wastes, and Renga stated that they are also building a canopy over the ash trailers to prevent rainwater from getting into the trailers. It was suggested that they check on permit and zoning requirements, to make sure that they comply.

V. Covanta Items

A. Filter Bag Management

Renga distributed letters from the Lancaster County, York County and Eastern Montgomery County Solid Waste Authorities to the USEPA on the management of spent baghouse filters. He indicated that Covanta's corporate office was trying to speak with the USEPA on this issue. He also said that they may try to test the ash right after the bag change-out, to see if there is any discernible difference in the quality of the ash.

B. Hauler Switch-outs

Lambert indicated that there have been fewer complaints about switch-outs since Covanta has kept on top of the haulers.

C. Supplemental Waste

Covanta reiterated that any new type of Supplemental waste is looked at in terms of potential effects on handling or emissions, and test burns are undertaken.

D. Gray Water Reuse- Update

Covanta stated that they would still like to see this project happen. Skrabak said that this will come up in the Eisenhower West planning process.

E. Jurisdiction Tonnage for FY2015

Lambert indicated that he would provide a letter to Covanta by April 1, indicating what

the new tonnage bandwidth would be.

VI. Old Business

Approval of Host Community Fee Methodology

The host community fee methodology has wrapped up, with Alexandria and Arlington agreeing on the methodology for determining the fee.

VII. New Business

A. Legislative Issues

The only issues were the four-walls issue, previously discussed under filter bag management, and potential new Boiler MACT rules. Renga does not think that the facility is at a high risk for new MACT rules affecting the plant.

B. Public Initiatives

Since the last FMG meeting, the following initiatives took place:

- A tour of the facility today by Merritt High School students
- February 11th – tour by the State Department
- February 26th – Eisenhower Partnership meeting
- Community outreach on a “No Toxics” program, and ramp up discussion on Earth Day.

At the end of the meeting, Renga mentioned that Jim Klecko’s new position will mean that he only deals with facilities in Pennsylvania. Mike Welsh, who Renga had reported to, left Covanta, so now he reports to Derek Veenhof. Renga will be focusing his efforts on community relations in Alexandria and Fairfax.

On a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Grabowsky, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th 2014 at the Covanta Facility.