

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

**Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, Barbara Wiley, Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, 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 February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 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 \$15,028.11. The sole invoice was for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period January 26, 2014 to April 26, 2014. Routt made a motion to approve payment, and Grabowsky seconded. The HDR invoice was approved unanimously.

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

Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro noted that it was a fairly routine quarter, with no unscheduled downtime. There was, however, scheduled downtime due to a routine outage. There were also 138 hours of standby time due to needing to stay below the steam permit limit, which continues to be a limiting factor.

The 914 tpd of waste processed closely matched the delivery schedule. There was about four percent less steam and electricity produced this year than the same quarter last year, and a lower heating value of waste. The tonnage was almost identical to the amount of waste processed last year, but the steam production was much lower this year, due to the lower HHV of the waste. Castro noted how close the facility is running to the limit on the monthly rolling calculated steam production (Chart 5 of the quarterly report). Additionally, the waste heating value was only 4,752 BTU/lb, approximately 6% lower than last year, although rainfall this year was approximately 59% more than last.

Castro stated that it was notable that this quarter there were neither environmental excursions nor safety incidences. He also noted that the superheater bundler tubes which will be installed during the fall outage are been stored in a poor area, next to the cooling tower. Donnelly stated that he didn't want them stored there either, especially since the boiler tube replacement is being pushed out to next year.

Schwartz asked about the number of NOVs issued to the haulers, and whether Covanta had stepped up enforcement. Donnelly did not believe that the NOVs were attributable to one particular hauler, and thought that the number of violations issued might be due to the new training the employees had received. Covanta agreed to look to see if there is a pattern of one hauler receiving multiple NOVs. Donnelly did note that they have banned some drivers from dumping their loads at the facility.

Lambert asked a question concerning the significantly higher dolomitic lime usage this quarter, and Donnelly indicated that they are adjusting the equipment since the material they are using is very powdery, so they have had problems injecting lower amounts. He said that it has been a challenge. Castro then asked about how the dry ash system is working, and Donnelly responded that it works well for the bottom ash, but that the fly ash forms slurry and creates a problem. They are looking at adding a flocking agent of some sort. He also indicated that Fairfax has a system that they are looking at.

Perrin then discussed his walk-through the plant of the previous day. He noted that the issue with the fire extinguisher and signs has been resolved. Covanta is taking care of the pothole and spider cracking. He did note that the fire hose is not mounted properly, that the APC electrical room storage cabinets are empty. There is a tarp laying over some cable trays, and a pothole at the tipping floor exit. It was noted that Covanta finished the new loading dock and bumper guards. There were ash trailers all over the site so that a new covered canopy could be installed which would be an environmental benefit as well as a cost savings.

## **V. Covanta Items**

### **A. Outage Summary**

This topic was not discussed during the meeting

### **B. Annual Stack Testing**

Castro stated that the stack test results were very, very good across the board. He noted that the data were impressive, with extremely low dioxin levels, the lowest levels in the past decade, bordering on non-detectable. The mercury levels have also been extremely low, ever since that anomaly that occurred in 2010. He stated that the environmental test results were outstanding. Schwartz asked if Covanta has been pushing the Low NO<sub>x</sub> (LN) system with corporate headquarters. Renga indicated that there has been lower boiler availability with the LN system and a hotter environment, resulting in more tile work. As a result, Covanta is looking into various solutions. It was noted that the Montgomery MD facility has an LN system. Castro interjected that the most vulnerable area under any new MACT regulations would be the lowering of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Renga indicated that CO<sub>2</sub> monitors might be required.

### **C. Supplemental Waste**

Renga said that they now receive special waste on a regular basis. They received 250 tons in April, and it has been fairly steady. There is pressure to grow this waste stream, but they still screen any special waste. He indicated that they upgraded their camera system to show that the material has burned completely. He also mentioned some bad news in the press about a facility in Oregon taking treated medical waste. He wanted to be clear that this type of material is not accepted at the A/A facility. They do take autoclaved material but not blood-borne pathological wastes.

### **D. Gray Water Reuse- Update**

Covanta representatives were asked if there was any update on the project. Renga said that they would like to keep the hope of this project alive, and they are looking at funding sources, such as grants to see if it can happen.

### **E. Covanta's support of Earth Day**

Renga said that he did not attend Earth Day, but Lambert attended and indicated that he was appreciative of Covanta's support.

## **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Legislative Issues**

There was not much to report on legislative issues. It appeared unlikely that there would be new Boiler MACT rules that would affect the facility.

### **B. Public Initiatives**

Renga noted that the NAWTEC conference would be starting the next day. Additionally, there was to be a tour of the facility scheduled on May 29<sup>th</sup> for the Alexandria Budget Director. Lambert was to inform Schwartz regarding the time, in case there were officials from Arlington who wanted to go. Additionally, the following tours/events took place in April:

- April 1 – a tour for the students from Capitol Hill
- April 2 – attended the Eisenhower Partnership Board meeting
- April 4 – a tour for the National Intelligence University DOD officials
- April 10-11 – Covanta Corporate Partners Conference at Covanta's corporate office in Morristown, NJ was held
- April 11 – a tour for a group from the Young Professionals Energy group
- April 11 – a tour for the AP Environmental science class from Washington Latin School
- April 19 – Covanta gave out \$5 gift cards to Arlington residents at an e-care event, for dropping off Hg containing devices.
- April 25 – a tour for Johns Hopkins University students
- April 26 – attended the Alexandria Earth Day event

**On a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Rouff, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.**

**The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Covanta Facility.**