

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

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**  
**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, Erik Grabowsky, Matt Hurley, Morgan Routt, Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, William Skrabak, and Kyle Perrin, with Susan Raila and Don Castro joining via phone. Mark Harlacker, Bryan Donnelly, and Don Cammarata 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>, 2018 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).**

Hurley 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 \$14,626.51. The invoices consisted of one invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period February 4, 2018 to April 28, 2018 in the amount of \$14,626.51. Grabowsky made a motion to approve the HDR payment, Routt seconded, and the invoice was approved unanimously.

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

A. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Perrin noted the new deficiencies which are shown in the pictures of the Quarterly report. He then also noted that the IR cameras had been installed, and Grabowsky asked if any personnel from the tipping floor were eliminated due to the cameras, and Donnelly responded no, but the

cameras are a big help particularly during the night time. DuVal asked Covanta to make sure that the Fire Department knows about the IR cameras, and suggested that they bring them in to show them. Perrin mentioned that the spring outages were now over, but that there were still some visible remnants from the outages on-site, such as insulation, lagging and scaffolding. He said that ID fan #2 was replaced during the outages. The two new deficiencies that were noted in the Quarterly report, the damaged curbing and corrosion, were fixed on the day of the meeting. Of the older deficiencies, item no. 5, the deteriorating ceiling panels were replaced, so that item was closed out. A few new items were mentioned from the prior day's inspection, including a leaning fence by the Citizen's drop off site, and some stair treads that were coming loose. Otherwise, Perrin said that everything looked good during his inspection the prior day.

Castro then discussed the quarterly report, and noted that it was a routine quarter, operationally. He pointed out Chart 5, which shows that the steam production was right below the limit, and Chart 7, which shows how the higher heating value of the waste increased in January, but then dropped back down to a more typical range. There was an increase in the HHV of the waste of 4.5% over the prior year, which resulted in 7% more steam generation, and a 4.5% increase in electricity compared to last year. Ash production, at 21% remains at a very good level. Castro then referred to Table 4 of the report, and noted that most of the comparisons of the reagent consumption from last year could be readily explained, with the exception of the dolomitic lime, which was less than one-third the level as used last year, yet the pH of the ash was the same. He asked Covanta to explain how that could be the case. Donnelly stated that there had been some challenges with impurities in the lime, and the lime seemed to get moisture in it, so that a smooth flow would not occur. They replaced a seal, but sometimes when it rains, there is still moisture in the lime, and they need to do a manual adjustment. Donnelly then said that it could also be an issue with the waste itself. He noted that they had experimented a couple years ago using much less lime, and still checked the pH monthly. Castro still thought that the dramatic drop in dolomitic lime usage was odd and needed further explanation.

Castro stated that the results of the annual stack testing all looked very good, well below regulatory limits, Grabowsky stated that Boiler #1 seemed to have more issues this year. Castro said that Boiler #1 had elevated CO levels, and Boiler #2 had higher particulate emissions, but both parameters were still well below permit limits. Both lead and particulate emissions were up slightly for the year. Both the bags in the baghouse and the cages were changed out recently, and they are still using the Ryton bags.

## V. Covanta Items

### A. Update on Fire Suppression Equipment Plans for the A/A Facility

Cammarata state that the alarm system was working quite well, as are the IR cameras.

### B. Update on Costs/Operational Issues with LN System

Cammarata indicated that Covanta was focusing on looking at the engineering fees, as they are installing the system in Fairfax. They intend to provide the FMG with more detailed costs by the August meeting, and intend to submit the documentation to the FMG first, for review. Installation would not be initiated until October 2019 for one train, with the second train installation in the fall of 2020, and the third, in the fall of 2021. Castro requested that he would like to have time to review the costs a few days prior to the next meeting, so that we could discuss them at the meeting.

### C. Covanta Proposed Operational Changes - Steaming Rate

Cammarata said that Covanta is doing more homework on the issue. He indicated that they plan to discuss the impacts and benefits of a steaming rate increase informally with DEQ, later in the month. After that discussion, they would develop their next steps. Skrabak asked if an increase to the steaming rate would be a minor amendment to their permit, and wondered what the next steps might be. Would they monitor their actual steam throughput, or adjust the current calculation? Cammarata said they would go the way of least resistance with the DEQ, and that the DEQ would be reviewing all components of their permit. PM<sub>2.5</sub> might be included in their permit as well. Harlacker indicated that they would want everything in place before any official roll-out of their request, as they would not want there to be any unresolved issues.

### D. Supplemental Waste

As previously noted, the type of supplemental material continues to be the same, but with the Fairfax facility re-opening, more of this waste is returning to Fairfax, so the deliveries are now lower. The amount of supplemental waste delivered was 884 tons in February, 829 tons in March, and 886 tons in April. Loads of ice cream have dropped down, although residue from a recycling facility have increased. Loads of rubber now go to the Fairfax facility.

## E. Ash

This item was added to the agenda at the last minute, when the FMG heard that the ash from the facility was not being taken to the Lorton Landfill., but was being taken to the King George Landfill, which is farther away. Harlacker informed the group that while they are still delivering the ash to Lorton, Covanta had a portable ash processing unit, which they planned to move around every quarter, to pull out some ferrous and non-ferrous materials from ash, and they were targeting its use at some of the smaller WTE facilities. They approached Fairfax to bring in the unit to process stockpiled ash, but Fairfax did not want to stockpile any material to test out the unit, so Covanta approached Waste Management about testing the unit at the King George facility, where ash can be used as daily cover. Skrabak asked if that could be done, given the constituents of ash, and Harlacker responded that it's done all the time. The Contract between the Jurisdictions and Covanta makes Covanta responsible for the ash. Harlacker thought that the ash could be taken to a landfill without processing, and they currently pay Fairfax \$25/ton for disposal of the ash at Lorton. Covanta wants to process the ash, so it needs to be stockpiled, which is not possible at Fairfax. Grabowsky asked how much of the ash can be recycled, and Harlacker indicated that 1-1.2% was non-ferrous. DuVal said that he wants the FMG to be kept in the loop, so that the Jurisdictions know where their ash goes, and how much gets either recycled or beneficially reused.

Harlacker stated that the WTE facility at Huntsville will be the first small facility to check out this unit, and they will build a pad and do extensive processing on the ash. Covanta will test out how wet the ash can be, and how the unit ideally operates. The unit can then be moved to different places, or they might purchase more equipment for other facilities. It was noted that larger WTE facilities have more extensive permanent systems.

## **VI. Old Business**

### A. Air Quality Report/ Eisenhower West Plan Implementation Update

Skrabak gave an update on the modelling effort that had been undertaken. The first iteration of modelling showed the buildings that would be impacted. The next modelling effort will be shared in the next couple of weeks, but he indicated that the 6 closest buildings to the facility would still be impacted even with the anticipated emissions once the LN system was installed. One building to the west would probably need to be reduced to a 175-ft height, instead of 200-ft. Some of the buildings might only need to be 3 stories shorter. The City Manager wanted to know what it would take to have no impact on the currently planned building heights, and SCR (selective catalytic reduction) was mentioned, but dismissed because of site

constraints. Once again, the issue of raising the stack came up, and Covanta said that they have never done that, and therefore they had no expertise in this, but believed it would require a major outage and facility shut-down, and would involve significant foundation and structural steel work, additional concrete, and would be a major challenge, and not a practical solution. Cammarata asked how much higher the stack would need to be to have no impacts.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Legislative Issues**

There were no legislative issues to discuss.

### **B. Public Initiatives**

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

- February 1 – hosted a tour for 19, 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 2 teachers from the Capitol Hill Day School.
- February 12 – hosted a tour for 19 students from Bonnie Burgess’s class at Marymount University.
- February 15 – hosted a tour for two Fairfax County residents interested in waste processing techniques.
- February 16 – hosted a tour for Davis McCoy and 13 refuse haulers from Alexandria City.
- February 16 – hosted a tour for Tom Reardon of GBB consultants.
- February 23 – hosted a tour for Pablo Baraño, an environmental engineer visiting Washington DC from Chile.
- February 23 – hosted a tour for 23 students and one teacher from an AP Environmental Science class from St. Stephens/St Agnes High School in Alexandria.
- March 1 – hosted a tour for 17 students from a Northern Virginia Community College environmental science class and their professor, Debbie Shaffer.
- March 15 – hosted a tour for Matt Kelly, Councilman at Large for the City of Fredericksburg, and a solid waste professional from Nepal, Babin Bikash Maharjan, visiting the US for several weeks to see various waste management facilities in the US.
- March 28 – sponsored the Eisenhower Partnership Breakfast with the Alexandria City Manager, Mark Jinks.
- March 31 – Participated in the Arlington County Spring E-Waste event which was held at Yorktown High School, providing approximately 100, \$5 Home Depot gift cards to Arlington County residents who dropped off mercury containing equipment for recovery, thereby keeping it out of the solid waste stream.
- April 5 – hosted a tour for 14 people from the networking group, Young Professionals in Energy.
- April 13 – hosted a tour for 5 students from Johns Hopkins University and their professor, Thomas Jenkins.
- April 16 – hosted a tour for 16 solid waste professionals visiting from Sri Lanka, scheduled by Lisa Sobel of the US Department of Commerce.

- April 20 – hosted a tour for 17 Cub Scouts and their leader from Pack 135.
- April 28 – Sponsored the City of Alexandria’s 25<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Earth Day.

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

**The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Covanta Facility.**