

DRAFT MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

November 8th, 2017
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, Alaaedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, William Skrabak, Kyle Perrin and Susan Raila, with Don Castro joining via phone. Mark Harlacker, Bryan Donnelly, Don Cammarata, and R.J. Brooks attended the meeting from Covanta.

I. Comments on Agenda

There were no comments on the agenda.

II. Approval of Final Minutes from the August 9th, 2017 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).

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

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$14,650.52. The sole invoice was for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period July 29, 2017 to October 28, 2017 in the amount of \$14,650.52. Hurley made a motion to approve the HDR payment, Grabowsky seconded, and that invoice was approved unanimously.

IV. HDR - Operations and Facility Status

A. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro discussed the performance curves through October, and noted how the tonnages for the last 3 years pretty much tracked one another. The amount of ash produced has been around 20%, which has been very good. The tons of steam produced per ton of waste has

increased, and the heating value of the waste has also increased, so on a reference ton basis, the steam production has been a little lower than two years ago, indicating a very slight decline in the performance of the boilers. In terms of the calculated steam production, Covanta is allowing a little more margin between the calculated rate and the permit limit. The calculated heating value of the waste (BTU/lb) has increased to a fairly good value of about 5,200 BTU, likely a result of increased quantities of supplemental wastes. Castro noted that the facility was designed for 4,500 BTU waste, but it never was that low in reality.

The electrical generation of the facility has been as expected, and the amount of ferrous recovered has increased somewhat. Castro noted that the pebble lime consumption has risen fairly dramatically, while the SO₂ emissions have not risen, indicating that there is more SO₂ in the waste stream, possibly correlating with the increase in supplemental waste. The NO_x emissions have been under 160 ppm for the past 6 months indicating that it's fairly easy to control to that level. The carbon monoxide levels were not controlled quite as easily. As of the end of September, there were 1,388 days that the facility operated without an environmental excursion, which is excellent, but there was an excursion in October.

Harlacker noted that there has been a concerted effort to bring in more supplemental waste, and while some of that increase of material was due to the temporary closure of the Fairfax facility, even once Fairfax opens, it will remain at current levels, or about 6% of plant capacity.

Perrin then went through the deficiencies, which are listed on p.7 of the Quarterly Report. He noted that the corrosion on the ceiling panels in the TG enclosure was addressed. As was the viewport cracked glass (item no. 14) and the damaged viewport (item no. 17). Perrin did not find any new deficiencies during his inspection, but also mentioned that a new ID fan was being installed for boiler no. 2. Donnelly indicated that he is trying to stay ahead of any problems, and they installed a brand new ash discharger. They are trying to slightly increase the amount of water in the ash discharger, so anticipate that the ash will not be as dry as it was previously, in order to cut down on the amount of dust, so the ash may increase to 21 or 22% instead of the current 20% level.

V. Covanta Items

A. Update on Status of the Fairfax and Montgomery County Facilities and Fire Suppression Equipment Plans for the A/A Facility

Donnelly stated that for Phase 1, four IR cameras with a monitor will be installed at the

A/A facility. He is hoping it will be installed in early January, and these 4 cameras will be on the east wall, and will monitor the refuse pit. Phase 2 work might include cameras on the top looking down. There is a camera (not IR) on the crane pulpit currently. Grabowsky asked about other fire suppression systems, and Donnelly responded that they haven't planned that far out yet, only what is being done in Phase 1. Covanta wants to see how the other systems work in Fairfax first. He noted that they have two active water cannons which are monitored 24/7. At Fairfax, they are being automated. Covanta is trying to evaluate various technologies and come up with a company-wide plan. Harlacker mentioned that the Montgomery MD facility is different since it's a County-owned plant, and they were surprised by the cost of fire suppression equipment. His opinion was that the County should have been more involved with what they took in at their transfer stations, to avoid the fire situation that occurred. Grabowsky noted that waste fires happen all of the time, so thought it would be prudent to have systems in place to preserve the facility should a fire occur, especially since they don't have a transfer station or a fleet of long-haul vehicles. Harlacker responded that Covanta doesn't want the fires to occur either, but in terms of detection and suppression systems, they will need to see how things work out in Fairfax first.

B. LN System Letter – Other discussions and submissions to DEQ

Harlacker mentioned the change-in-law NO_x system letter that went out to the City and County, and DuVal noted that as a courtesy, the FMG should have been given 24-hr advance notice, so that they can be able to respond to their respective administrators. Cammarata indicated that Covanta is moving forward with installation of the LN system, in both the A/A and Fairfax facilities. The system will be installed in FY18 in Fairfax, and for Alexandria, the system will be installed in the first boiler in the fall of 2019, in the second, the fall of 2020, and in the third, the fall of 2021. Skrabak asked how they concluded to use the LN system, and Covanta responded that they would need to ask their air people. There was some confusion over what changed between the September report submitted to DEQ and the October one, which concluded that LN was the Reasonably Available Control Technology for NO_x. The October RACT report provides high level planning costs, and Donnelly indicated that once installed, the LN system will bring the NO_x levels down to 90 to 110 ppm. The installation of the system will take about 10 to 12 days, during a longer scheduled outage, over the course of a 3-year period. Castro asked if they would need to change any of the SNCR system nodules, or if it's all boiler-related work. He also asked if they would be moving to using urea as a reagent, to get rid of the ammonia, and Donnelly responded that they do not plan to move in that direction.

This led to a discussion on the Eisenhower West development plans, and how the lower NO_x limits might affect the plans. Skrabak said that they need to be consistent with earlier modelling for buildings higher than 10 stories high. They will be doing another iteration of modelling to expand the area and use the LN system limits of the facility, and with Virginia Paving and without. He also noted that a new modelling iteration with the RACT numbers might result in being able to increase the building heights above 10 stories, although possibly not as high as the 26 stories planned for some of this development. Skrabak asked about Covanta's experience with raising the stack for more dispersion, a question that the City Manager had, and whether that would be feasible or not. Donnelly indicated that raising the stack would be a challenge, and the structural needs to withstand higher winds, etc. Skrabak asked about installing an SCR system, to further reduce NO_x, but not only would that cost tens of millions of dollars, but they also don't have the footprint required for that. Skrabak will be getting a new scope for the modelling effort, but noted that the LN system will be helpful.

C. Diversion Plan – Response to letter

Regarding the letter to outline a diversion plan should the A/A facility be closed for some unforeseen reason, Option A would be to send the waste to Fairfax, Option B would be to set up a transfer operation at the A/A Facility, but the City would like more detail on Option C, which is to divert deliveries to alternate disposal facilities not more than 20 miles away. Harlacker noted that DEQ would be easy to work with in terms of obtaining approvals to run trucks to another location. Grabowsky asked who would be contacted, could they go through Montgomery County transfer stations or through the DC transfer stations? Harlacker indicated that they have a relationship with Washington DC, and could do something as Option C. Grabowsky and DuVal agreed to redraft the City and County's response letter.

D. Supplemental Waste

As previously noted, there has been an increase in the amount of supplemental waste brought in to the facility, partially due to the facility in Fairfax being out of service. Covanta had budgeted to have about 5% of the in-bound waste be Supplemental Waste. The amount of supplemental waste delivered was 1,835 tons in August, 1,805 tons in September, and 1,635 tons in October. The type of material continues to be the same, primarily textiles,

pharmaceuticals, and secure documents requiring destruction.

It was noted that the dolomitic lime used at the facility varies quite a bit, and air emissions are looked at very closely in Alexandria, so the types and blends of Supplemental Waste need to be looked at. Donnelly noted that Nestlé looks to take no waste to the landfill, so the A/A facility takes in its “green rubber”. The facility may use more reagent depending on the material that they are bringing in, but it was noted that emissions have not gone up. DuVal noted that there was a big increase in the amount of reagent used recently, and Donnelly mentioned that they took in a lot of ice cream waste. Weaver mentioned that a truck driver from Alexandria got hives after delivering waste to the facility, and attributed it to penicillin (which he is allergic to) in the pit, and Donnelly stated that the facility does not take that type of waste, and if they did, it would be hopper-fed, and not on the floor. Evidently the driver said that the material was air-borne, and it burned his eyes. Grabowsky requested that a sign be put up when any pharmaceuticals come in to avoid a potential situation, and Donnelly indicated that they could look to schedule the timing of any pharmaceutical deliveries as well.

VI. Old Business

A. Air Quality Report/ Eisenhower West Plan Implementation Update

This topic was covered in section V(B).

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:

- October 30 – hosted a tour for 15 students from Marymount University, which was set up by their professor, Bonnie Burgess.

DuVal mentioned that he would like to schedule a tour for the Alexandria drivers, within the next month, so would like to coordinate that with Covanta, and Grabowsky indicated that he would like to ask new Board members to take a facility tour in January.

On a motion by Grabowsky, seconded by Hurley, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 at the Covanta Facility.