

DRAFT MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

November 14th, 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, Erik Grabowsky, Emily Hughes, Morgan Routt, Helen Lee (as Jeffrey DuVal’s official designee), Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, Kyle Perrin, and Susan Raila, with Don Castro joining via phone. 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 August 8th, 2018 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).

Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes (as amended by Cammarata’s emailed comments); Lee seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$16,214.58. The invoices consisted of one invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period July 29, 2018 to October 27, 2018 in the amount of \$16,214.58. Lee made a motion to approve the HDR payment, Hughes seconded, and the invoice was approved unanimously.

IV. HDR - Operations and Facility Status

A. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date

Castro discussed the quarterly report, and noted that there were only 13 hours of unscheduled downtime in the quarter, which he considered to be very good. Boilers No. 1 and No. 2 had mini-outages for 2 days each, where the grates were cleaned, and Boiler No. 3 had a major

outage lasting about 5 days. There were also about 175 hours of boiler standby time during the quarter. The average amount of waste processed was 967 tpd, which is about 99.2% of design capacity, which is excellent. Both steam and electricity production were down substantially during the quarter, and as shown on Chart 7 of the Quarterly Report; the HHV dropped off precipitously, due to very wet waste. There was a substantial decrease in steam production (5 to 8 percent less). It was noted that there is a strong correlation between the amount of rain during the quarter and the drop in HHV. Another unusual aspect of the quarter was the spike in ferrous recovery. The amount of ash also dropped to 16 percent in September. Donnelly noted that the data could be an anomaly since normally the ash is in a good range of about 20 percent. Otherwise, Castro said that it was a typical quarter, with good environmental results. Grabowsky noted that when he viewed the portable unit that removes additional metals at the King George Landfill, he was surprised at the amount of ferrous that was still in the ash.

Perrin then went through the deficiencies on Table 1 of the quarterly report, noting that items 12 and 13 were closed out. He identified two new deficiencies: an uprooted bollard that needs to be repaired, and a pothole at the tipping floor exit ramp. Donnelly stated that they planned to fix the pothole later in the week. Perrin noted that there was an outage going on during his inspection, so there were also some housekeeping issues that would need to be taken care of. Perrin noted the need for Covanta to pressure-wash the building, and Donnelly responded saying that they might do it themselves if they can't find a company with the proper safety rating to undertake the work. Grabowsky praised Covanta's emphasis on safety at the facility. Lee asked about an issue from the last meeting related to the residential drop-off site where the road needed to be clearly marked that it was two-way traffic, after a number of accidents occurred. Donnelly responded that he would look at the issue again.

V. Covanta Items

A. Update on Costs/Operational Issues with LN system

Cammarata said he had not yet received the cost estimate being prepared for the LN system, and didn't know why it was taking so long to get it from corporate, but is also dependent on the permit requirements. Grabowsky mentioned the 90-day period that the FMG has to comment on the system change (which has not started yet), but Cammarata stated that since they have to install the LN system, as per VADEQ, any comments on the costs would need to be dealt with separately, since Covanta plans to install the LN system in the last quarter of CY2019. He did note that the selection of the LN system and preliminary costs are in the RACT analysis, and that the LN system was developed with Martin (developer of the facility's technology). Hughes

mentioned the frustration with not having received the costs yet, since costs were supposed to be provided to the FMG for each of the past several meetings. Cammarata indicated that Covanta wanted to set up a separate meeting with the FMG to just discuss the costs during the second or third week in January. [Note: Subsequently, Covanta could not schedule the meeting in January, and it is scheduled to be held after the next FMG meeting in February].

B. Covanta /FMG Relationship

The FMG had sent Covanta a letter after the last FMG meeting stating that it did not support the increase in the steaming rate that Covanta was seeking with the VADEQ due to the increased tonnage, traffic, and wear and tear on the facility that would result. Covanta had asked a public official, who was unaware of the letter, what could be done to change the City's position on this issue. Grabowsky brought up the protocol that should be followed to maintain trust between Covanta and the FMG, since the City and County representatives on the FMG were willing to set up meetings with the City and County managers to discuss the issue further. Cammarata apologized, indicating that there was no intent to circumvent the FMG, and Grabowsky reiterated that Covanta needs to be more sensitive to following the established protocols for communication.

C. Ash

DuVal and Grabowsky had gone out to see the ash processing unit at the King George Landfill prior to the meeting. Donnelly said that the unit got a good removal rate of metals, and was working well. It was noted that it was a "technical success", but they were not sure yet if it would be a "commercial success". Donnelly mentioned that they were experimenting with injecting a bit more pebble lime and a little less dolomitic lime at the facility, to see if it helps break up the ash to enhance the metal recovery rate. He noted that some facilities are not using any dolomitic lime at all, and that pH testing throughout their experimentation has been good.

D. Supplemental Waste

As previously noted, the type of supplemental material continues to be the same, primarily documents requiring destruction and pharmaceuticals. Deliveries were: 1,040 tons in August, 1,138 in September and 1,108 in October.

VI. Old Business

A. Air Quality Report/ Eisenhower West Plan Implementation Update

It was noted that VADEQ will be holding a public hearing on December 6th on the RACT permit for the Alexandria and Fairfax facilities, and Lee indicated that the City's environmental team will be attending the meeting. The public comment period closes on December 21, and the final permit should be issued in early January.

VII. New Business

A. Legislative Issues

There were no legislative issues to discuss other than the VADEQ RACT permits, lowering NO_x, previously discussed.

B. Public Initiatives

Covanta indicated that there were many tours since the last meeting, and provided a list of public outreach, which included the following:

- August 1 – hosted a tour for three local residents interested in waste-to-energy.
- September 5 – hosted a tour for Scott Broom, reporter with USA9, along with his producer and cameraman, who filmed a news piece on where waste goes, featuring a recycling facility, the Alexandria WTE facility and a landfill. (air date TBD)
- September 26 – hosted a tour for six Virginia Tech graduate students from the Alexandria satellite campus.
- September 27 – hosted a tour for 21 students and their teacher from Kennedy High School in Montgomery County, which was part of the Global Student Ambassador Program.
- September 28 – hosted a tour for an Arlington Resident, Emily Diaz.
- October 4 – hosted a tour for four people from the Navy Yard Earth Conservation Corps who work to clean up the Anacostia and provide environmental education services.

At the end of the meeting Grabowsky thanked Covanta for their support of an e-care event. He also asked Covanta if they have done any studies to show the benefit of burning plastics, or whether it's better to burn or landfill plastics.

On a motion by Grabowsky, seconded by Lee, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 at the Covanta Facility.