

FINAL MINUTES
Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group
MEETING

February 13th, 2019
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, Emily Hughes, Helen Lee (as Morgan Routt’s designee), Alaeedin Mohamed, Alton Weaver, Bill Skrabak, Mike Collins, Donald Castro, Kyle Perrin, and Susan Raila. Bryan Donnelly and Don Cammarata attended the meeting from Covanta.

I. Comments on Agenda

There were no comments on the agenda, but Cammarata noted that Paul Ewald of Covanta would be joining the group after the formal meeting to discuss the LN system.

II. Approval of Final Minutes from the November 14th, 2018 Facility Monitoring Group Meeting (see attached).

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

III. Requisitions for Payment

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$14,263.51. The invoices consisted of the invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period October 28, 2018 to February 2, 2019, in the amount of \$13,313.51, and the annual membership dues for the ERC, in the amount of \$950. Grabowsky made a motion to approve the two payments, Lee seconded, and the invoices were 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 although the throughput of the facility

was the same as the prior year, there was approximately 3.5% less steam, and 5.4% less power produced by the same amount of waste. The amount of ash generated was very good, and the amount of ferrous recovered had increased. There was a 5.1% decrease of HHV of the waste over a 3-month period, which is why there was less steam and less energy produced. Castro then explained each of the graphs on the Performance Summary report. He noted that the quantity of ash produced had been extremely low previously, but it returned to around the 20% level. The Gross Turbine Generator Conversion Rate graph (in which lower values are better) shows that the turbine performance is not as efficient as it had been in the past, noting that one turbine has one less stage of power production. Covanta noted that they scheduled two major turbine generator overhauls, one in November of this year, and one in November of 2020. These will each be 21-23 day outages. Castro again noted the excellent ferrous recovery rates of the facility, which have been more than 3 percent. Cammarata agreed to find out how much was recovered with the test units at the King George Landfill (which he subsequently did).

Castro noted that the pebble lime consumption is around 16.5 pounds per ton, but there was a spike in consumption in November. Donnelly responded that they are looking to phase out the use of dolomitic lime, and increase use of pebble lime, so they are currently testing out that switch, while not increasing the SO₂ levels. Castro noted that the amount of ammonia consumption is low, and that somewhat less carbon is also being used for mercury removal. Moreover, the carbon monoxide level in the boilers is down somewhat, indicating that they are operating somewhat more efficiently than previously.

Perrin then went through the deficiencies on Table 1 of the quarterly report, noting that items 4 and 5, related to pressure washing of the facility were completed, and item 3, resurfacing of the tipping floor was also completed. Items 10 (replacing a damaged bollard), and 11 (resurfacing the tipping floor exit ramp) were also completed since the last inspection. DuVal asked about the roadway outside of the facility, and Donnelly responded that it was improved from last year, after they roughened the road to make it less slippery. Weaver said that some of his drivers had complained about a slippery tip floor. Perrin noted a new deficiency to be added to the list, which was a minor leak in the turbine generator enclosure. Donnelly commented that they are making some other improvements, including reinforcing the columns, stiffening the siding, and possibly replacing the crane rails. Perrin said that there were still a lot of materials from the last outage lying around, but it was noted that there is another outage planned for next week. It was also mentioned that stack testing will be undertaken in March.

V. Covanta Items

A. Update on Costs/Operational Issues with LN system

DuVal thanked Covanta for the materials they provided on the LN system (which will be discussed in further detail after the FMG meeting), and indicated that the FMG will require a formal letter outlining the additional operational costs of the system. Cammarata said that they would send that out within the next week or so.

B. Update on Meetings Related to the Steaming Rate Issue

Covanta requested a meeting with the City and County Administrators and Elected Officials, so a meeting will be set up later this spring with Mark Jinks (Alexandria City Manager) and Mark Schwartz (Arlington County Manager), sometime in April or May. After that meeting, another will be set up with the elected officials. Nothing is currently being done on the regulatory side, but since there are 4 new Council members and some new Board members, they will need to get a tour of the facility, along with the briefing.

C. Impacts of Regulation to Reduce Carbon Emissions from Electric Power Facilities

Covanta reported that this regulation only applies to fossil fuel plants, and not to the A/A waste-to-energy facility.

D. Ash – Update on the Mobile Unit at King George Landfill

Cammarata said that the unit operated successfully, but it is not at the landfill anymore. He indicated that the yields of recovered metals were good, but it is not yet known if the unit is viable from an economic standpoint. He said that they may redo some of the tests in the summer months, but for now, the ash is going back to the I-95 Landfill for disposal.

E. Supplemental Waste

As previously noted, the type of supplemental material continues to be the same, primarily documents requiring destruction and pharmaceuticals. Deliveries were down somewhat since the Fairfax facility has been up and running, and due to the temporary government shutdown. Deliveries were: 992 tons in November, 933 tons in December and 964 tons in January.

VI. Old Business

A. Air Quality Report/ Eisenhower West Plan Implementation Update

Not much has changed since the last meeting. The buildings near the facility can be designed a bit higher due to the installation of the LN system, but not as high as they initially wanted.

VII. New Business

A. Legislative Issues

There were no legislative issues to discuss.

B. Public Initiatives

Covanta's public outreach included the following:

- November 6 – sponsorship of the Eisenhower Partnership Annual Meeting.
- November 20 – hosted a tour for two JMU students, scheduled by junior, Christine Nguyen.
- November 21 – hosted a tour for a local high school teacher and another local citizen, scheduled by Colton Fullmer
- December 11 – hosted two facility tours for Howard Gardner High School students (about 40 students in total), from Alexandria.

At the end of the meeting Lee asked about the path to the public drop-off area, and asked if Covanta made it clearer that it was 2-way traffic in that location. Donnelly said that they planned to paint a line and put in signage, and possibly add a speed bump, but they hadn't done anything since the last meeting. This item will be added to the deficiencies list for the next meeting.

On a motion by Grabowsky, seconded by Hughes, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 at the Covanta Facility.