

## **Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Group MEETING**

**August 9, 2023**

**Covanta Alexandria/Arlington Waste-to-Energy Facility – Eisenhower Avenue**

**8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting**

The Facility Monitoring Group, City and County Staff, and HDR representatives present for the meeting included Helen Lee, Erik Grabowsky, Vijetha Huffman, Alaeedin Mohamed, William Skrabak, Emily Hughes, Morgan Routt, Philip Pugh, Dan Domato, and Abby Fleming. Don Cammarata and Kelly McLaughlin attended the meeting from Covanta. This FMG Meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

### **I. Comments on Agenda**

With the change of “February” to “May” in Section II, Lee made a motion to approve, Grabowsky seconded. All in favor of approval.

### **II. Approval of Final Minutes from the May 10, 2023, Facility Monitoring Group Meeting.**

Grabowsky stated in Section V B. Power Purchase Agreement to change the interconnection agreement statement to be stated by Cammarata not Grabowsky. With the identified revisions, Grabowsky made a motion to approve, Routt seconded. All in favor of approval.

### **III. Requisitions for Payment**

The requisitions for payment that were submitted for approval totaled \$25,183.17. The sole invoice was the invoice for HDR Engineering, Inc. for the period April 30, 2023, to July 29, 2023, in the amount of \$25,187.17. Lee made the motion for approval. Grabowsky seconded. All in favor of approval.

## **IV. Operations and Facility Status**

### A. Summary of Plant Operations (by Covanta)

McLaughlin provided a brief update on the Plant Operations. There was a plant trip on July 4, 2023 after Dominion had a breaker fail and cycle unexpectedly which caused the plant to come offline. They were able to restore the plant later the same day without major issues or complaints from the community. There have been no major equipment failures since the last FMG meeting. All processing and operations targets have been on track.

McLaughlin discussed the Facility's Staffing: There are two open positions; McLaughlin's position of Facility Manager being one, as their last day is August 11, 2023. Alex Piscatelli and Greg Gromer will be filling in as interim facility manager. Grabowsky requested to update the contact list to include Piscatelli's information, listing Gromer's primary and Piscatelli as their backup. Cammarata stated that they will provide that. The other position open is an auxiliary operator. There is a mechanic who provided notice of leave, but there is already a candidate lined up.

Lee asked McLaughlin to discuss a notification regarding the stack lights. McLaughlin stated someone called the facility last week claiming they were a city official and were complaining about the stack lights but did not leave their information. McLaughlin stated that there is one side of the stack where the lights are burnt out, they were replaced this year but due to the aging system it is burning out lights more often. They have set up a contractor to replace/upgrade the lights to an LED system in either September or October this year. McLaughlin stated there will be a minor outage on Unit 3 the week of September 10, 2023 and a major outage on Unit 1 the week of October 15, 2023. During the October major, the facility will be completing the North Crane festoon upgrade, same project completed on the South Crane last October. These outages will be the last planned major outages for the year. Lee asked if anyone from the fire department has reached out about conducting drills, McLaughlin stated that they have not. Lee to follow-up with department.

McLaughlin discussed the Facility's Environmental and Safety Highlights: There were no environmental exceedances during the previous quarter. The facility is trending down on issues with the CEMs system now that they are fully staffed with three electrical technicians. The DEQ inspection is ongoing this morning, and do not expect any issues. The action item from the last audit was to repair some concrete in the tipping hall which was completed. Domato stated during the last site visit, he noticed new opacity monitors getting replaced and asked if this was preventative maintenance. McLaughlin stated that they are in the 3–4-year process of turning over all their CEMs monitors due to their age. Grabowsky asked Cammarata if Covanta is requiring all

facilities to post analytics from the CEMs monitoring. Cammarata answered saying yes, all facilities will be providing this information online. McLaughlin said that over the next few years, Covanta will take a company-wide assessment of the fire suppression systems to upgrade sprinklers and install various systems. It is still currently being fully scoped, so McLaughlin does not have a full job list. It is a corporate driven project, looking into putting in new refuse pit monitors, fire canons. Covanta has partnered with Fire Rover as a company who does remote monitoring, that is 24/7 monitoring.

#### B. Discussion of Quarterly Report and Facility Performance to Date (by HDR)

Domato discussed the Quarterly Report and Performance Trends. Domato reviewed the downtime during the quarter; there were scheduled boiler cleaning outages for Unit 2 (June) and Unit 3 (May). There was 68 hours of unscheduled boiler downtime during the quarter; of note: Unit 1 had a grate bar failure (April), and Unit 3 had a waterwall tube leak (June). In June, there was a scheduled outage on T-G no. 2 to repair the hotwell level controls (in part due to the dominion. In Q4FY23, the average boiler availability was 97.5%, with 98.7% on Unit 1, 97.8% on Unit 2, and 96.1% on Unit 3. There was minimal T-G downtime for both units; T-G 1's availability was 100% (less than an hour of downtime), and T-G 2's availability 99.3% during the quarter. For FY23, the average boiler availability was 93.9%, with 93.4% on Unit 1, 94.7% on Unit 2, and 93.6% on Unit 3. The average T-G availability was 90.8%, with 98.7% on T-G 1, and 83.0% on T-G 2. A T-G overhaul (including an unscheduled extended outage) was performed on T-G 2 during the Fiscal Year.

In Q4FY23, the Facility processed 92,717 tons of waste. The monthly MSW processing rate was in line with Q4 in previous fiscal years. For FY23, Facility processed 350,146 tons of waste. Total Waste Deliveries, shown in Chart 8, are tracking with the tonnages in previous fiscal years.

In Q4FY23, the ash generation rate was 20.0% which was consistent with Q4FY22. For FY23, the ash generation rate was 20.1%, which was 1 percentage point lower than FY22. The decrease in generation rate can be attributed to the replacement of the ferrous magnet (which occurred in February 2022).

In Q4FY23, the ferrous metals recovery rate was 3.4% (as a percentage of waste processed), which was consistent with Q4FY22. In FY23, the ferrous metals recovery rate was 3.4%, which was 0.6 percentage points higher than FY22. The ferrous recovery continues to be in line with historical data after the new magnet replaced the temporary magnet that was running with

lower efficiency.

In Q4FY23 and FY23, steam production was slightly higher than the previous fiscal year but remained within the 12-month rolling permit limit. In FY23, the Facility was operating with a higher boiler steaming rate. The boiler steaming rate shows how much steam is created per reference ton of waste which accounts for HHV/design. The boiler steaming rate is impacted by the quality of the waste (higher heating value), and how the boilers are being operated (higher setpoints).

In Q4FY23, the gross and net electric generation were consistent with Q4 in previous fiscal years. The net electric generation rate was 425 kWh/ton for Q4FY23. For FY23, the net electric generation rate was 408 kWh/ton which was more than 3% lower than previous fiscal years. This reduction in electric generation was caused by the scheduled T-G 2 overhaul (including the unscheduled extended outage) during the fiscal year.

In Q4FY23, the turbine steaming rate was 12.4 lbs/kWh, which was 2% higher (less efficient) than Q4FY22. In April, there was a cooling tower failure which impacted the performance of the T-Gs (the cooling tower provides cooling water to the turbine condenser). Should continue to track T-G performance following the major overhaul on T-G 2. Typically, after an outage/major overhaul, there is usually 1-3% improvement to T-G performance. Excluding the interruption in April, there does not appear to be any improvement in performance. McLaughlin stated that the cooling tower is a main driver for the TG performance and is beginning to show its age. Covanta was supposed to perform CT fill upgrades last year. McLaughlin also mentioned that T-G no. 1 is the main T-G for the Facility, and since T-G no. 2 normally only operates at half capacity, the increase in performance may be harder to see.

Following the execution of the latest PPA (starting in February 2023), the Facility has switched to net metering. Purchase power will only be required when the T-Gs are offline or there is an interruption in T-G operation.

Based on observations made during HDR's August site visit. Three items were removed: item 14 (replace roadway bollard on west side of facility road), item 15 (repair roof exhaust fan about Unit 1), and item 18 (repair hole in stairs next to boiler 1). One new item was added: address issues with cooling tower stairs (caution tape has been wrapped around a section of the staircase).

## **V. Covanta Items**

### **A. Facility Manager**

Previously discussed in Section IV. Cammarata stated they have started the search for a new facility manager but there is currently no definitive timeline. The expectation for the next quarterly meeting is to have Piscatelli and/or Gromer sit in on the call.

### **B. Supplemental Waste**

There has been no major changes, operations have continued as expected.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Residential Drop-off Procedures**

McLaughlin stated that they continue to have issues with residents entering at the wrong location and not stopping at the scale house. They have ordered more signage that have been placed along the roadway. There are arrows along the parking lot directing residents. According to the scale house attendants, they are continuing to see hostile residents, upset about getting stopped to check in at the scale house or when they get told they can't throw away C&D waste or paint at the facility. There are still a lot of residents entering at the employee gate, not realizing the entrance is on the other side. McLaughlin is unsure if it is possible to get more signage along the road about the specific entrance. Otherwise, there has also been positive response about moving the residents' box behind the scale house from most residents. Lee agreed it would be a good idea for additional signage and can work with the city office on adding more signage along the road in both directions. Lee stated that often times when residents are searching for information about drop off boxes, they may be googling information prior to going to the city website. Lee was uncertain if Covanta Alexandria website has the same information. Cammarata can follow up and see if they can link the City's website on their page.

### **B. Communication following Forced/Unscheduled Outages**

There is no update on this matter. Previously discussed updating the orange sheet to include Piscatelli.

### **C. Hauler Safety Event**

McLaughlin updated the FMG on the Hauler safety event. They stated it went well, and provided hot dogs, chips, and drinks. The facility is planning on hosting another one next year. Lee asked if they have seen cell phone usage with drivers go down. McLaughlin will check in

with the scale house, they have not been tracking as strictly, but they have not received any complaints recently.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Public Initiatives**

Cammarata sent the list of initiatives a few days ago for this past quarter. Lee stated that in the pre-meeting she shared the good work done for all the tours, fire department, haz-mat, fire executive leadership, and the Office of Climate, thanking Cammarata for all the support. Lee is expecting another tour for the new director of TES, Adriana Castañeda, coming from San Diego, starting September 11, 2023. This tour may be a good time to also include Ryan Freed, the new climate sustainability officer, who was missed last time. Cammarata stated that there have been routine visits to the ALIVE! Alexandria food pantry which will be continuous. McLaughlin stated that they met a lot of residents during the National Night Out that had a lot of questions about the facility and a request for more glass recycling bins. Cammarata seconded hearing the need for more glass recycling. Cammarata shared that Covanta recently hired someone to help drive the sustainability efforts across the Northern Virginia area. Her name is Carolyn Cruise, she has been with the company approximately six weeks and is working with the community and helping drive sustainability events. Lee stated it would be great to meet her at a future FMG meeting and to get connected with their climate office. During public events, the Covanta contact would still be Cammarata. Cruise's focus is on the community while Cammarata focuses on clients. Pugh stated that the climate office is planning a sustainability event in the fall, where they might invite the City or other organizations that have a role in sustainability. It would be similar to the Earth Day event with booths. When there is more information, the climate office will keep the City/Covanta in mind and reach out. Covanta is planning another sustainability event on October 7, 2023 with the shredding truck and similar pick up to Earth Day. McLaughlin to share details with Lee to share with the climate office to better advertise and work together on events. Pugh stated that the stormwater division helps support stream clean up locally within the city if Covanta would like to participate more and stay involved. Lee asked about the traffic flow for the shredding event. McLaughlin is unsure how popular the shredding event will be. Grabowsky stated they do a monthly shredding event in Arlington, and they get several hundred participants and constant car activity and stated they can anticipate a very popular event.

Covanta's Public Outreach Initiatives:

29-Jun	Georgetown Day School
21-Jun	Third Way - Policy
10-Jul	US Congressional Staffers
17-Jul	City of Alexandria Fire
18-Jul	City of Alexandria Fire
19-Jul	City of Alexandria Fire
26-Jul	City of Alexandria Climate Office

**Events/Sponsorships**

5-Jun-23	Hauler Safety Day and Lunch
6-Jun-23	ALIVE! Alexandria food Pantry Volunteerism
15-Jun-23	HBCU Presidents Forum - Sponsorship
15-Jun-23	The Juneteenth Foundation Honors Ceremony - Sponsorship
12-Jul-23	ALIVE! Alexandria food Pantry Volunteerism
20-Jul-23	ALIVE! Alexandria food Pantry Volunteerism
27-Jul-23	ALIVE! Alexandria food Pantry Volunteerism
1-Aug-23	National Night Out - Met neighbors in Willow Creek neighborhood

B. Open Discussion

Lee brought up the option of doing one in-person meeting per year. Grabowsky stated that the FMG meetings are more efficient seem to be more efficient virtually. The FMG will discuss potentially setting up a separate day to have members tour the site together.

Grabowsky asked about the recent storm issues, if there is any adverse impact on the plant overall or are there any precautions associated with the storms. McLaughlin stated that there is no overall impact to the grid. Internally, they try to prepare everything for a trip and minimize any impact to the community.

Domato stated that he received a cold call from the US Mission South Africa, they have a contingent coming to the DC area at the end of August/early September, reaching out to see if they could set up a tour. Cammarata stated that they would have to review the request, and asked Domato to forward the email before responding.

**On a motion by Lee, seconded by Grabowsky the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.**

**The next Facility Monitoring Group Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, and will be held as a virtual meeting.**