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★ Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility Earns VPP Star Recognition ★

The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson, MD received designation as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star worksite in ceremonies held at the facility on June 22. An estimated 100 dignitaries, employees, and guests were on hand for the presentation and raising of the VPP Star flag signifying the facility's status as only the fifth such worksite in the State of Maryland.

The employees of Covanta Montgomery worked for approximately two years in voluntary cooperation with Maryland Occupational Safety & Health (MOSH) to earn this recognition, with the goal of providing the safest possible work environment for its workers. VPP Star status involves a set of stringent criteria that the facility was required to meet under rigorous evaluation from MOSH safety and health experts. With this recognition, the facility will be expected to continuously monitor and evaluate its safety standards and procedures to remain a VPP Star facility. The benefit of this program lies in the prevention of illness and injury to its employees. The Authority congratulates Covanta Montgomery on achieving this coveted recognition.

The Montgomery County RRF is owned by Montgomery County and the Authority and operated by Covanta Montgomery, a subsidiary of Covanta Energy, Inc. It has been in operation since August of 1995 and accepts approximately 1,500 tons of solid waste per day, employing a mass burn technology that converts this waste into approximately 63 megawatts of electricity, enough power to operate the facility and 40,000 households.

For more information on VPP, visit <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/index.html> and <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/vpp.htm>



SEPTEMBER

WASTECON 2006
September 19-21
Charlotte, NC

Calendar Item

This annual convention features SWANA training courses, technical presentations and networking opportunities. For additional information and registration: www.swana.org/sections/wastecon/

MRC & SWANA's Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2nd Annual Joint Conference Highlights

The Maryland Recyclers Coalition (MRC) and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) held their second annual joint conference at Towson University on June 14 and 15. The two-day meeting provided attendees with the opportunity to learn and share ideas with a large selection of solid waste and recycling industry professionals in Maryland. Exhibitors from Maryland and the surrounding states also provided attendees with information about vendors and services available.

The conference began with a keynote address from Lori Scozzafava, the Deputy Executive Director of SWANA. Ms. Scozzafava delivered an inspiring message, encouraging participants to seek new frontiers and be pioneers. Ms. Scozzafava reminded attendees that in the recent past everyone disposed of everything in landfills and recycling was unknown. She explained how just one person had the idea and the drive to try something new, resulting in the beginnings of recycling. She also challenged

all participants to open their minds and face the new frontier of solid waste and recycling with new ideas.

The MRC awards and annual meeting were held concurrent with the SWANA

ing broken glass as beach replenishment, and an update on landfill gas including new technologies and the 2005 energy bill were also discussed. The afternoon sessions focused on commercial recycling with highlights on waste reduction in hospitals, airport recycling, and green hotels. Problems with mixed C&D at municipal solid waste landfills were also presented and discussed. A panel discussion regarding electronics recycling allowed attendees to hear from MDE, the National Center for Electronics Recycling, and local recycler CDM eCycling. Day two of the conference started Thursday morning with sessions on new marketing approaches, paper markets, and transfer station design, operation, and maintenance. The morning ended with a panel discussion on the adjustments needed to convert to single stream recycling.



morning technical session. Wednesday morning's technical sessions included discussions on landfill redevelopment, bioreactor landfills, and geosynthetics. Topics such as stadium recycling, utiliz-

For more information on the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA please go to: <http://www.swana-midatl.org/>. For more information on the MRC please go to: <http://www.marylandrecyclers.org>.



WasteLines

2006 Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education

Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. held its Mid-Atlantic region symposium on Thursday, May 25 at the Georgetown University Conference Hotel. Seventh and eighth grade students from Federal Hill Preparatory School in Baltimore joined students from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania in applying real-life challenges to what they have learned in the classroom during this rewarding and fun conference.

The Federal Hill students gave a presentation on their efforts to make the

environment and their community a clean, beautiful and ecologically safe place to live and visit. The students researched the environmental effects of litter in an effort to increase public awareness of the health effects that litter imposes on the community and its citizens.



Transfer Station Safety Video

The Authority has purchased an OSHA-sponsored safety video entitled "Be Safe, Be Proud – At the Transfer Station." This 18-minute video will help transfer station employees and haulers identify the principal safety hazards at transfer stations and teach them how to avoid injuries and accidents. If you are interested in seeing this video, please contact the Authority to make arrangements.

Aerial Survey & Mapping of Landfills

Aerial surveys are an important tools in landfill management. Many of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) landfill permits require that the remaining capacity of a landfill be determined on a periodic basis. The most accurate way to do this is by an aerial survey, usually conducted in December due to the lack of vegetation. A trained engineer examines the photographs, historical tonnage and other data, and then produces volume calculations. These calculations show how much landfill space has been utilized and how much expected disposal life remains at that particular site. This information is vital to waste disposal planning because the quantity of waste entering a landfill is tracked by weight, not volume.

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) procures the services of on-call engineers, who are available to our member jurisdictions. We can often combine aerial surveys to include more than one landfill at a time, reducing the costs to our members.



Aerial view of Quarantine Road Landfill in Baltimore City, MD. The Authority's sludge composting facility is also shown.

Our Fantastic Summer Interns

Chris Nelson, College Student

With the price of oil skyrocketing and the prospect of electric rate hikes looming on the horizon, renewable energy sources are receiving a great deal of attention. Waste-to-energy technology is one of the most talked-about sources of renewable energy. This summer, Chris Nelson is putting together a presentation to be used by member jurisdictions to educate residents about the benefits and importance of waste-to-energy technology.

Chris returns to the Authority this summer for the third time as part of the Baltimore City YouthWorks program. YouthWorks pairs motivated students

with businesses and organizations in Baltimore City to provide students with valuable professional experience.

For more information on YouthWorks please visit:
<http://www.oedworks.com/youthserv/index.htm>, SummerJobs

Arielle Widgeon, High School Student

Arielle Widgeon joined the staff this summer to help the Authority reach a long-term goal: scanning all files into our document imaging system. Arielle quickly learned how to use the equipment and has made significant progress toward the Authority's goal.



Chris Nelson



Arielle Widgeon

South Baltimore Learning Center receives Certificate of Appreciation from Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

The South Baltimore Learning Center (SBLC) received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in May. The center, located in Federal Hill, was recognized for “dedication to the revitalization” of its community.

Chris Leyen, plant manager at Baltimore RESCO, is member of the Board of Directors at SBLC. BRESKO has been a long-term supporter of SBLC, and has contributed funds for the renovation project and for its annual programs.

The certificate was part of the recognition given during National Community Development Week in April in keeping with this year’s theme: “Moving Communities Forward.” Executive Director Sonia Socha and Board of Directors Vice President Barry Blumberg,

two of several people instrumental in the building’s renovation, accepted the certificate. Jennifer Almond, a project manager at the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, said there were several recipients across the state, including ten from Baltimore City, whose “commitment has made a lasting contribution to the State of Maryland and has made a difference in the lives of [their] fellow citizens.”

This will be SBLC’s second commendation for the 2003 renovation of its historic building that once housed the Southern District Police Station and Courthouse. In 2004, SBLC also received a historical preservation award from Baltimore Heritage.

SBLC is a community-based nonprofit organization providing functional literacy and life skills training, in addition to

career preparation services, to Baltimore area residents.



Pictured from left to right: Jenifer Almond, Project Manager for Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development Division of Neighborhood Revitalization; Barry Blumberg, SBLC Board Vice President; Sonia Socha, SBLC Executive Director



WASTEWATCH

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WasteWatch is published quarterly by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent agency of the State of Maryland governed by its Member jurisdictions – Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

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