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New Harford County Company Takes Over Operations of Harford W-T-E Facility

Brambles International, an Australian multinational company, acquired the Harford County W-T-E Facility through a series of purchases in the early 1990's. Brambles owns several operations and management businesses in the United States, including a national muffler repair chain. After a decision to consolidate its U.S. holdings, Brambles sold the Harford facility to the Authority on July 1, 2002, and remained as operator of the facility.

Earlier this year Brambles decided to terminate the operating contract with the Authority. As a result, the plant's long-time manager, Jeff Poulton, formed an operating company, Energy Recovery Operations, Inc.

(EROI), and took over operations on July 1.

Mr. Poulton brings more than 12 years of management and operations experience to the company. His responsibilities have included maintaining three miles of underground steam line on the Army base, supervising 40 employees and compliance with environmental regulatory requirements.

"Jeff has done an excellent job of running this facility for the past 12 years and we are very happy that he has launched his new business venture in Harford County," noted Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov. "I predict that when it comes to managing this facility, Jeff will do an outstanding job." 

Authority Welcomes New Board Members *Schaeffer and Sparkman Recently Appointed*

Governor Robert Ehrlich has appointed Franklin G. Schaeffer, Carroll County's Deputy Director of Enterprise Fund Management, to the Authority's board of member representatives. Mr. Schaeffer has more than 24 years of experience in Carroll County government. He began his career in the private sector with DRS & Associates and Leon Podolak & Associates as a land planner, surveyor and civil engineer.

Mr. Schaeffer's career with Carroll County began in 1979. He started as a development plan reviewer and worked his way up to Chief of the Bureau of Development Review. In 1999, he was appointed Deputy Director

of the Department of Public Works and held this post until his recent appointment as Deputy Director of Enterprise Fund Management. Mr. Schaeffer's new responsibilities include management of the county's enterprise fund operations, including sewer and water utilities operations and all aspects of the county's solid waste management program.

He holds an M.B.A. from Mount Saint Mary's College, a B.A. from Western Maryland College and is a registered land surveyor in Pennsylvania. Mr. Schaeffer resides with his family in Westminster. *continued on page 2*

THE AUTHORITY HAS MOVED

The Authority's new address is,
Tower II – Suite 402, 100 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201-2705.
The Authority's telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.






Robin Davidov to Serve on Program Committee for Electric Power 2004 Conference

Robin Davidov has been selected to serve on the program committee of the 6th Annual ELECTRIC POWER Conference & Exhibition, which will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center, March 30 - April 1, 2004. Members of the program committee oversee the entire annual event. In its brief six-year run, the conference has become the international meeting place of choice for operating managers from the power industry and for project developers. The comprehensive conference program covers today's most significant power industry issues. It brings together managers and engineers to explore energy solutions from the perspectives of business and technology. Ms. Davidov will advise the program committee on waste-to-energy issues and coordinate site visits to the Authority's three waste-to-energy facilities.

"The Authority's waste-to-energy projects depend on energy sales to local utility companies and power marketers as well as the regional electricity grid and transmission companies. Educating our energy customers is important to our success in marketing energy and related products," said Ms. Davidov.

The conference, developed by an industry-based committee, is extremely comprehensive with several tracts developed specifically for all sectors of the power industry. 

AUTHORITY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS *(continued from page 1)*


John Sparkman was recently appointed Director of Maryland Environmental Service (MES) by Governor Ehrlich. As Director of MES, Mr. Sparkman also serves as an ex officio member of the board. Mr. Sparkman replaces James Peck, who retired on July 1.

"John Sparkman brings strong management skills and an extensive background in both the public and private sectors – just the balance needed to guide MES," said Governor Ehrlich. Until his appointment, Mr. Sparkman was director of federal government relations for PPL Corporation, a Fortune 500 energy company with utilities in Pennsylvania, the United Kingdom and Latin America. Mr. Sparkman previously worked for Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and prior to that for the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a graduate of Berea College and American University's School of International Service.

In announcing Mr. Sparkman's appointment, Governor Ehrlich congratulated outgoing



Franklin G. Schaeffer (left), new Carroll County Representative replaces Gary L. Horst; John Sparkman (right) replaces James W. Peck.

Director Peck on his retirement. "We are indebted to James Peck for his honorable service at MES and his career serving Maryland. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement." Mr. Peck was first appointed MES Director April 5, 1995. 


Authority and MDE Team Up to Promote Recycling of Dental Amalgam

Mercury is ubiquitous. It has been used in products from electric switches and fluorescent light bulbs to contact lens solution, medical devices and dental amalgam. Methylmercury, which is a potent neurotoxin, can cause a decreased ability to walk, talk, see and hear. Other mercury compounds are not harmful to human health, but are potentially detrimental if disposed of improperly.

The good news is that mercury can easily be eliminated from the environment by simple pollution prevention practices (reducing mercury at its source) and recycling techniques. One example is the handling of amalgam in dental offices.

Dental amalgam has been used for more than 150 years. It is made of equal parts of elemental liquid mercury and an alloy powder consisting of silver, tin, copper and sometimes smaller amounts of zinc, palladium or indium. The mercury in dental amalgam is chemically bound to the other metals and is stable. It is not a human health hazard. During dental procedures of removing and replacing amalgam fillings, small particles of amalgam are either screened out of the wastewater flow or enter the drainpipe. If screen-

ings are thrown away in the trash or the medical waste red bag, the toxic waste can wind up back in the environment. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is actively encouraging more efficient amalgam screening and recycling to assure that it does not enter the environment.

In a joint effort to get the word out, the Authority added a list of dental amalgam recyclers to its business-to-business website, www.mdrecycles.org. Currently, dentists can mail their amalgam wastes to these refiners for recovery in DOT-approved containers supplied by the refiners. MDE is working with several dental associations in Maryland (including the Maryland State Dental Association and the Maryland Dental Society) to educate dentists on proper disposal practices and to set up amalgam collection events throughout the state, possibly in connection with various household hazardous waste collection days scheduled by each subdivision. 

Any questions about the progress of MDE's efforts can be addressed to Gary Kelman at 410-537-3630 or gkelman@mde.state.md.us.

Three Baltimore Organizations Cited for

recycling

U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay:

The Authority recently presented The U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay with a Certificate for Excellence in Recycling for their program to recycle scrap metal, office paper and cardboard. Approximately 1,000 people work at this installation. Authority Commercial Recycling Specialist Clif Dowling reviewed the installation's recycling program with Mr. Howard Gaulliford, environmental engineer, and made suggestions for improving the existing program. He later gave a presentation on



Clif Dowling, the Authority's commercial recycling specialist, presents a certificate to Lieutenant Commander Sue Powers, facilities manager for the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay.

the potential for improving the facility's recycling program to the installation's Environmental Compliance Committee.

Living Classrooms Foundation:

The Living Classrooms Foundation is a non-profit educational organization that provides hands-on learning, job training and community service programs for students from diverse

backgrounds, with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged and at-risk youth. The organization was founded in Baltimore in 1985. Since then, it has grown into an organization with 35 programs that serve more than 50,000 students a year.

In discussing recycling options with staff members at Living Classrooms, Mr. Dowling



Mr. Luke Thoresen and Mr. Douglas Grinath of the Living Classrooms Foundation accept a Certificate for Excellence in Recycling from the Authority's commercial recycling specialist, Clif Dowling.

ELECTRONICS: Fastest Growing Category of Solid Waste

By Clifton Dowling

The Environmental Protection Agency ranks computers as the nation's fastest growing category of solid waste. Approximately 315 million computers will become obsolete by 2004, just in the United States, according to the U.S. Environmental Health Center. All of those computers contain dozens of toxic substances that pose a threat to the environment and to public health.

The cathode-ray tube (CRT) in a computer monitor or television can contain up to eight pounds of lead in the radiation shielding of the glass. Barium also is used in the glass shielding. Lead solder can be present on connections. Phosphorus is in the inside coating of the faceplate. Hexavalent chromium is applied on galvanized steel parts for corrosion protection. Lead solder, beryllium and mercury can be found on circuit boards. Semiconductors and resistors contain cadmium.

The European Union has drafted rules that will hold electronics manufacturers responsible for recycling their wares by 2008. The State of Massachusetts already has banned cathode-ray tubes from landfills. In October of 2001, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in cooperation with the Region III Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the other Region III jurisdictions (Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) started a pilot program for end-of-life electronics reuse and recycling called the Region III eCycling Project. The project was a collaboration of government agencies and businesses. (Regina Rochez, formerly of the Maryland Department of the Environment, wrote an article on the eCycling Project that was printed in the December 2002 issue of *Resource Recycling* magazine.)

g excellence


determined that storage space was a major concern. He suggested that the organization consider self-hauling recyclables. They are currently self-hauling all recyclable materials. Mr. Dowling also suggested that one individual be designated as the recycling coordinator.

The programs are held on ships and on shore. Living Classrooms programs range from one-day expeditions aboard the foundation's eight historic ships to year-long programs that offer high school credit at the Living Classrooms Maritime Institute to working in East Baltimore's Empowerment Zone. The recycling program established at the Living Classrooms' Baltimore facility recycles paper, cardboard and beverage containers.

Grace Davison Company:

The Grace Davison Company, a Baltimore division of Connecticut's W. R. Grace and Company, has been recognized for its outstanding recycling effort. The local chemical company recycled nearly 44 percent of their solid waste in 2002. During the year, the company recycled more than 108 tons of paper

and cardboard and more than 85 tons of scrap metal. The company also recycles nearly 400 wood pallets per month.

Mr. Dowling reviewed the existing recycling program and made suggestions for improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness at the company. 




Clif Dowling presents the Authority's Certificate for Excellence in Recycling to Mr. Kenneth Katafiasz, associate engineer, and Mr. Bob Errera, environmental safety and health manager of the Grace Davison Company.

Electronics collections events have been held in nearly all Maryland jurisdictions. By December of 2002, approximately 700 tons of electronics, primarily computer components and television sets, were collected for recycling. In addition to events held at solid waste facilities, retail locations, schools, fairgrounds and parks, four counties, including Howard and Montgomery, established permanent collection sites.


The eCycling Project was established with funding from the EPA. Electronics manufacturers, including Canon, Hewlett-Packard, JVC, Kodak, Panasonic, Philips Consumer Electronics of North America, Sharp, Sony and Thompson Multimedia (all members of the Electronic Industries Alliance) provided supplemental funding. Panasonic, Sharp and Sony took an industry lead by paying for the recycling and demanufacturing of their products and specifically covering costs for their

products that were collected. Some limited state funding was provided, as well as some local government funding.

According to the December 26, 2002 Federal Register (Volume 67 Number 248), "An increasing number of electronics manufacturers are offering to take back computer CRTs for recycling. In some cases these services are free. In other cases a fee is charged for shipping and handling. Take-back programs have been available for some time to major corporations and large purchasers of electronic equipment. Now, electronics manufacturers are beginning to offer similar services for computer CRTs to small businesses and households." 

A list of companies that recycle computers and other electronics can be found in the directory of recycling companies on the Authority's Maryland Recycles website at www.mdrecycles.org.

BMC Recognizes Authority's Role in Emergency Response

In response to world events, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) began in the fall of 2002 to address the need for a coordinated, regional response to debris management in the event of a large-scale disaster. According to an article in the April 2003 issue of BMC's Metropolitan Report, "the Authority took the lead and researched debris management practices to prepare a disaster debris management planning document." With assistance from the Maryland Emergency Management Administration (MEMA), a comprehensive plan was created that can be used by the BMC to coordinate with its member jurisdictions, MEMA, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The planning document provides critical information required in the case of a disaster that generates significant debris. This resource, which has been reviewed by MDE and lauded by MEMA, will serve as a template for other regions in the state, as well as a reference for other state agencies. The members of the BMC have signed agreements to ensure that each municipality receives reimbursement from FEMA for its disaster clean-up efforts. 



Authority's Laura Thomson Invited to Speak at SWANA's 8th Annual Landfill Symposium

The Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA's) 8th Annual Landfill Symposium was combined this year with the Solid Waste Managers Trends and Challenges Conference and was held in Atlantic City, in June. The idea of combining these two annual events was applauded by attendees because the joint event provided them with more options for sessions, meetings and training. Authority staff member Laura Thomson attended the conference. She was a presenter on one panel and moderator of another.

On a panel that focused on emissions credit trading, Ms. Thomson presented, "Testing the Market: the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority's Emission Credit Reductions Trading Efforts." The presentation provided real-life lessons in the emission reduction credits market. Other speakers on the panel addressed the emergence of structured markets in several states and regions.

At the end of the conference, attendees took a tour of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Environmental Park. Stops on the tour included the materials recovery facility, the compost facility and the landfill.

SWANA Holds First Annual ROAD-E-O Competition

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA hosted its first annual ROAD-E-O competition at the Harford Waste Disposal Center May 2. Forty-six contestants from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey attended the event, which showcases the talents and skills of solid waste workers. More than 13 contest participants represented solid waste departments in Authority member jurisdictions. The competition is divided into two general categories – landfill equipment operators and truck drivers. Within these categories, participants competed in the compactor, dozer, haul truck, loader and backhoe (landfill equipment operators); and the transfer trailer, rear loader, front loader and roll off (truck drivers).

The Authority sponsored a kick-off banquet reception the night before the competition. Contestants renewed old acquaintances over delicious food while SWANA COO Carol Fearn delivered a pep talk on the top-ten best



A competitor shows his skill at using a ball and chain attached to the bucket of a backhoe to knock over bowling pins.



The 1st place winners of the 2003 SWANA Road-E-O pose for a group photo in front of a CAT loader.

ways to influence the judges at the next day's event. (Money topped the list!)

The following morning's weather outlook did not look promising. But as the day progressed, the rain held off and the competition got underway. Multiple events occurred simultaneously and there was no pause in the action. The level of expertise was astounding – maneuvering heavy equipment through laid out courses with exacting skill. As noon approached, the smell of hot dogs and hamburgers on an open grill beckoned everyone to take a break from the events. After lunch, the competition continued followed by an awards ceremony. Bob DeMarco, committee

chairman, summed up the days events. "A great committee put in an excellent effort to bring the event together, a wonderful location and host, lots of volunteers to help out, great competition, good food, and the rain did not start until five minutes after the last event!"

Maryland Recyclers Convene to Discuss the Future of Recycling

The theme of the Maryland Recyclers Coalition's (MRC) 15th Annual Conference, held May 28-30 on the campus of CCBC-Catonsville, was "Refresh, Renew, Recycle." The conference, co-sponsored by the Authority, focused on the challenges facing the recycling industry and the opportunities for development and growth. Recycling coordinators and private industry representatives spoke about trends in recycling, such as the

focus on small-business recycling, market volatility and development, and creative management for recycling coordinators operating on tight budgets. The conference also included a tour of the Loading Dock, a non-profit recycler of building materials that focuses on making home maintenance and improvement items affordable for low to moderate income families, churches and non-

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**MARYLAND
RECYCLERS CONVENE
TO DISCUSS THE
FUTURE OF RECYCLING**

(continued from page 5)

profit organizations. The MRC Conference concluded with a panel discussion on the future of recycling from the federal and state perspectives.

To learn more about the MRC, go to www.marylandrecyclers.org. To learn more about the Loading Dock go to www.loadingdock.org.

The National Recycling Coalition will host its 22nd Annual Congress and Exposition at the Baltimore Convention Center September 14-17, 2003.

For more information, go to www.nrc-recycle.org or call 202-347-0450.



INDUSTRY UPDATE

NAWTEC Conference Predicts Upbeat Future For W-T-E Industry

The future may be looking brighter for the waste-to-energy (W-T-E) industry because of two significant federal government actions. That was one of the conclusions reached at the 11th Annual North American Waste-to-Energy Conference (NAWTEC) held in April in Tampa, Florida. Conference participants were especially upbeat because of proposed federal legislation that would provide energy tax credits for new W-T-E construction and because of recent acknowledgements from the EPA and Department Energy that the W-T-E industry is a "clean, reliable, renewable source of energy" (see the Spring edition of *Wastewatch*).

This annual conference brings together professionals in the W-T-E industry to share new information about the industry. There were many presentations regarding technology

and the need to improve economics at existing facilities.

Robin Davidov, executive director of the Authority and Chris Pollatos of Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, Inc., gave a presentation on the new, but growing market for TREC's – tradable renewable energy credits for electricity produced by waste-to-energy facilities. The market for TREC's is notably growing in the Northeast and presents exciting revenue enhancement possibilities. The Authority and Mirant are leaders in this new market, having sold TREC's from the Montgomery County RRF valued at \$200,000.

The conference also featured a vendor exhibit area and tours of the McKay Bay Waste-to-Energy Facility (operated by Wheelabrator) and the Hillsborough County Waste-to-Energy Facility (operated by Covanta).



WASTEWATCH

Tower II – Suite 402, 100 S. Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2705
(410) 333-2730 / FAX: (410) 333-2721
E-mail: authority@nmwda.org
Website: www.nmwda.org

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