RIBBON CUT FOR NEW MILLERSVILLE LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY FACILITY

With a quick snip of the scissors, Anne Arundel County Executive John R. Leopold cut the ribbon on July 24th celebrating the completion of Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority’s newest project: the Millersville Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility. Located in Severn, MD at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility (MLFRRF), this source of renewable energy is the tenth project of its kind in Maryland, and the fourth project developed by the Authority.

In July, 2009, Anne Arundel County employees approached the Authority and initial planning towards a “green” facility began. Work progressed quickly—in just thirteen months a procurement was released, proposals were received and evaluated, a vendor was selected, and contracts negotiated. The Anne Arundel County Council approved the contracts continued on page 2.

TIMOTHY WHITTIE NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR HARFORD COUNTY

Harford County Executive David R. Craig announced the selection of Timothy Whittie as the new Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) for Harford County in June.

Tim is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland and District of Columbia. He worked as the Chief of Development Services for Cecil County since May 2006 where he was responsible for the creation of procedures regulating asbestos disposal at the Cecil County Landfill.

During his career with the Cecil County Dept. of Public Works, Tim was responsible for updating the Cecil County Road and Storm Drain Code in 2007. Most recently, he updated the Cecil County Stormwater Management Ordinance in 2010.

Before that, Tim spent most of his 30 years of engineering experience at various private companies, including Frederick Ward Associates. “Mr. Whittie’s background in both the private and public sectors will serve him well as he becomes our new Director of DPW,” Harford County Executive Craig commented at the time the announcement was made.

The new Harford County Director of Public Works received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering focusing on Hydraulics and Hydrology from the University of Maryland in 1983. Tim replaced Bob Cooper in the position as DPW Director, who retired at the end of June. Bob had led Harford County DPW since 2005.

Tim will also be the Authority’s newest board member. The staff and other board members look forward to working with him.

Mr. Whittie being sworn in by the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Harford County Court, Linda Settle.
in August of 2010, and the Authority and Landfill Energy Systems (LES)—the company selected to be the design/build/operate vendor—began the design and permitting of the facility.

In December, 2011, approximately fifteen months after the approval of the contracts (and some great collaborative work between LES and both the Maryland Department of the Environment and County Permitting Services), final permits were issued and construction began. Within six months, LES was able to bring the facility online and begin testing. Construction of the facility was completed in June.

The 3.2 megawatt facility, estimated to produce over 25,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity per year, consists of two Caterpillar G3520 engine-generator sets that utilize the landfill methane gas that the county previously collected and combusted.

Utilizing the landfill gas accomplishes two goals: first, controlling the gas produced from the landfill reduces its effect on the environment; and second, capturing the energy in the gas for generation of electricity. By generating electricity in this manner, the new facility is removing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent of more than 2,600 vehicles, while providing enough electricity to power approximately 1,900 homes at the same time. Electricity produced from the facility is exported onto BGE’s power distribution system and sold through its PJM Interconnection.

“Identifying projects that use alternative methods to produce energy instead of coal and crude oil is vitally important to the future health of our environment,” says Anne Arundel County Executive John R. Leopold. “This project generates electricity with the methane we previously collected, burned and discarded. I’m proud that this public-private partnership will pay dividends for taxpayers and the environment.”

The newest Authority project was brought to fruition through creative teamwork and public-private partnerships. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the project partners: Anne Arundel County Public Works; Environmental Services and Permitting Services; Arundel Community Development Services (grant administrator); EPA’s Landfill Methane Outreach Program; Maryland Department of the Environment; US Dept. of Energy (supplied grant to the county); Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; Landfill Energy Systems; and Sheibel Construction (general contractor to LES).
FISCAL UPDATE:
HARFORD WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY

The Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility, located in Joppa, MD and operating since January of 1988, has just completed one of its best years of operation on record.

The facility processed 121,000 tons of solid waste during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2012—a processing rate of approximately 92% of its design capacity. Operated by Energy Recovery Operations, Inc. (EROI), the facility generated over 515 million pounds of steam for use by the United States Army at the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Grounds. That total exceeded the amount of renewable energy contractually required by 60 million pounds.

In addition to steam generation, the facility was able to generate electricity for in-house use, saving Harford County approximately $162,000 in electricity purchases and helping to bring the facility in under its operating budget.

The facility also continued its strong record of environmental compliance last year by meeting all of its permit requirements. Add in Harford Waste-to-Energy’s success in meeting operational and budgetary goals, and 2012 will go down as a banner year indeed.

SOLID WASTE PROFESSIONALS CONVERGE ON D.C. FOR WASTECON® 2012

WASTECON, the annual conference of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), was held this year from Aug. 14-16 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in Fort Washington, MD, just southeast of Washington, DC. Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA in a beautiful setting overlooking the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Potomac River, the event brought together thousands of solid waste professionals from the US, Canada, the Caribbean and around the world for an opportunity to exchange information on the latest developments and innovations in the solid waste industry.

The conference, which also celebrated the 50th anniversary of SWANA, immersed participants in training courses, technical sessions, and exhibits. As part of the anniversary celebration, a retrospective of SWANA’s history was presented, from its inception as the Government Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA) through its evolution into the world’s premier waste association.

Montgomery County’s Department of Environmental Protection played a prominent role in the success of this year’s WASTECON. On the Monday before the conference officially began, a tour was given of four local Maryland facilities: the Materials Recovery Facility and the Transfer Station in Derwood, and the Composting Facility and the Authority’s Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson.

The day-long tour was hosted by former Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov, who was able to share her unique historical perspective on the facilities. Staff from Montgomery County, the Maryland Environmental Service, and Covanta Montgomery made the well-received excursion possible.

WASTECON 2012 featured presentations by speakers in virtually all aspects of solid waste management, including waste-to-energy, landfill gas management, and composting. Robin Ennis of Montgomery County had the opportunity to speak about the county’s conversion of solid waste vehicles from being fueled by diesel to compressed natural gas. The conference included training in areas such as transfer station management, landfill management, and managing of compost systems, to name a few. Over 200 exhibitors displayed their wares and expertise in the Convention Center’s exhibit hall, including large collection vehicles and neighborhood recyclers.

WASTECON 2013 is scheduled for Sept. 17-19, 2013 in Long Beach, CA.
Energy Recovery Operations, Inc. (EROI) is on a roll: seven straight years with no lost time injuries.

EROI operates the Authority’s Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility located in Joppa, MD. The facility offers a wide range of solid waste and scrap tire disposal services to the public and private sectors, and processes approximately 120,000 tons of solid waste each year. Energy recovered from the waste is transformed into high-pressure steam and delivered to the adjacent Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

In addition to their seven-year safety record, the employees of Energy Recovery were recently recognized for their superior safety by being accepted into SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program)—a program sponsored by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that recognizes small business employers who operate an exemplary injury and illness prevention program. Energy Recovery Operations, Inc. was one of only five companies in the State of Maryland to earn the SHARP recognition award.

Energy Recovery attributes the success of its safety program to the “team safety concept.” The facility has been in operation since 1988; its staff of 44 employees includes 35 Harford County residents.

Congratulations to EROI on their impressive safety achievements.