Authority staff members have been working with our marketing, public education and communications consulting firm, Pinnacle Communications Resource Company, to revise and update the Authority’s website. We would like to thank everyone who previewed the site with us and offered comments on how to make it even better!

The purpose of the new design is to keep interested parties up-to-date on Authority projects and activities. In addition, we strived to make the site easier to navigate, provide a place to publish project documents, and to allow potential subcontractors to contact selected vendors through links from our project pages.

Please visit www.nmwda.org and share your comments.

— Authority Staff

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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Harford County

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Montgomery County

James M. Saldino
Maryland Environmental Service

Authority’s Website Gets Major Makeover

What do you do with a closed landfill? There are several options, ranging from a passive use as a park to the more active use as a Frisbee golf course. Or, as done at the Howard County New Cut Road Landfill, a defined space on a closed landfill can host a solar array that generates electricity for a neighboring elementary school.

As often is the case with complex undertakings, this project took some time and the efforts of many dedicated people to come to fruition. It began when Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and Director of the Howard County Department of Public Works James Irvin tasked the Authority with developing and issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a solar array at the New Cut Road Landfill. The RFP was issued to select a qualified contractor to design, engineer, finance, obtain permits, construct, operate and maintain the solar array that provides...continued on page 6

Chris Skaggs Appointed(145,541),(195,594) to Lead the Authority

Christopher W. Skaggs was appointed as the Executive Director of the Authority by the board of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, and confirmed by Governor Martin O’Malley. As Executive Director, Chris will manage the Authority’s solid waste and recycling projects for its eight member jurisdictions.

Authority Chairman James Irvin said “Chris’ lengthy record of service with the Authority makes him uniquely qualified to lead the organization.” Chris joined the staff of the Authority in 1988 and has been promoted several times, including the appointment as Deputy Director of the Authority in 2006.

Chris is a past board member and secretary of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America. He has presented at industry conferences such as WasteCon and the North American Waste-to-Energy Conference, and to the Transportation Research Board.

Chris has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Howard County Solar Project at New Cut Road Landfill

Building a greener future

Harford Waste Disposal Center Expansion

New Authority Board Member

Mayor Rawlings-Blake Helps Bresco Celebrate Garbageman Appreciation Day

Building a greener future

Volume 23, Issue 4
Winter 2012

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HARFORD WASTE DISPOSAL CENTER EXPANSION

Harford County completed construction of and is currently operating Cell N1, the first new landfill cell to be built at the Harford Waste Disposal Center (HWDC) since 1995. Open since 1987 but nearing capacity, the HWDC was granted a permit to expand the landfill in late 2007. Cell N1 provides 700,000 cubic yards of air space.

 Dixie Construction Company, Inc. of Churchville, Maryland was chosen as the contractor for the project. Construction commenced in May of 2010 and was completed in September 2011. The project included construction of the landfill cell, access roads, leachate sewer and storage tanks, a header for a future landfill gas system and a plate arch bridge to access the spoil stockpile area. The County worked with the Authority’s on-call engineer, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., for design of the new cell, preparation of the bid documents, and engineering and critical inspection services during construction.

HWDC is the home of Harford County’s only municipal solid waste landfill. The current HWDC landfill now occupies 51 acres of the 286 acre property with an additional 64.5 acres permitted for disposal. Other facilities located at HWDC include a residential convenience center, yard trim composting facility, recyclable materials transfer station, and the administrative offices of the Division of Environmental Services.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY: CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

This summer construction of a landfill gas-to-energy facility at Anne Arundel County’s Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility is expected to be completed. Landfill Energy Systems began construction of the project in December 2011 and upon completion, the facility will produce 3.2 megawatts of renewable energy. Construction is progressing and equipment is arriving for eventual placement. The finished facility will house two Caterpillar 3520 engines in an enclosed building. BGE should begin construction of their portion of the interconnection in early March.

THOMAS J. RIO JOINS AUTHORITY BOARD

Carroll County Director of Public Works Thomas J. Rio, a 21-year veteran of Carroll County Government, has been appointed by Governor Martin O’Malley to the Authority’s Board of Member Representatives.

Thomas, who began his career in the private sector, has over 35 years of public works experience in Virginia and Maryland.

Upon graduating from the State University of New York in 1967, Thomas worked for a general contractor, planning and creating blueprints for specialty items for New York State highway construction projects. His career with the general contractor was short-lived because within a year, the U.S. Army requested his immediate assistance.

He served three years in the Army, initially in the 76th Engineering Battalion Headquarters. While there, he administered a material testing laboratory and provided general testing services for all road and general battalion construction projects in and around Seoul, South Korea, and the American sector of the demilitarized zone along the North Korean border.

After returning stateside, he was responsible for implementing and administering all the training programs for the Headquarters Company of the 43rd Engineering Battalion in Columbus, Georgia.

In 1971, Thomas returned to civilian life with Woodward Clyde Consultants, a geotechnical consulting firm in Rockville, Maryland, where he was a construction technician for field testing and a construction inspector for six years in the general D.C. area. In 1977, he joined the Engineering Department of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia as a construction inspector. He was promoted to Capital Construction Coordinator in 1983 and became responsible for the oversight and administration of all capital construction, roads, and utility projects for the Town during the Northern Virginia building boom.

He handled procuring and administering professional services and oversaw all aspects of construction contracts. He joined the Carroll County Department of Public Works in 1990, as the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Capital Construction.

EPA’S LANDFILL METHANE OUTREACH PROGRAM 15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On January 18th and 19th, the EPA’s Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) held its 15th Annual Conference and Project Expo at the Hilton in Baltimore, Maryland.

Presentations highlighted new projects in 2011, including high BTU direct use projects as well as improvements and publicly self-developed landfill gas-to-energy projects. Other presentations focused on project challenges, both technical and regulatory, including financing projects and future markets outlook. This year, a specific segment was dedicated to small scale landfill gas projects across the United States.

LMOP hosts a Project Expo each year in conjunction with the conference which features information about a number of landfills across the globe that have potential for developing gas-to-energy projects. The conference featured numerous exhibits from industry consultants and vendors and provided opportunities for networking.

Many presentations from the 15th Annual Conference and previous conferences can be found online at http://www.epa.gov/lmop/workshops/15th.html.

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MAJOR RAWLINGS-BLAKE HELPS BRESCO CELEBRATE GARBAGEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Wheelabrator Baltimore and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake paid tribute to the 700 private and municipal solid waste collection workers from Baltimore City and Baltimore County who haul more than 300 truckloads and 2,000 tons of post-recycled waste to the BRESCO waste-to-energy facility every day. Those in attendance were treated to lunch from John’s Deli.

“You deliver a vital service for the citizens of Baltimore,” Rawlings-Blake said. “In the heat, the cold and the rain, you still do the job. I’m proud of what you do.”

Wheelabrator Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Jeff Primavera said the company values its partnership with its “front-line colleagues in waste collection and disposal who provide an invaluable service to the community. Wheelabrator is proud of the partnership we have had with the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County for three decades and we look forward to another three.”

In addition to the mayor, other City officials who were on hand to show their appreciation for the waste haulers included City Council President Bernard “Jack” Young and Department of Public Works Director Alfred Foxx.

Wheelabrator also recognized Lou Demely, an 84-year-old Westport resident who has been giving tours of the BRESCO plant since 1985. Demely recently gave a tour to his 30,000th visitor.

“You are a great ambassador for Wheelabrator and for the City of Baltimore,” Rawlings-Blake said in presenting an award of appreciation to Demely on behalf of Wheelabrator. Garbageman Appreciation Day also provides Wheelabrator with the opportunity to thank the crews for their contributions to the company’s safety record, which has earned Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star certification from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) – the agency’s highest recognition.

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Students from Green Street Academy, a public middle high school in Baltimore, with Lou Demely, far left, and Jeff Primavera and Mayor Rawlings-Blake, center.

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AUTHORITY STAFF NEWS

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Andrew has a PMP certification from the Project Management Institute and has led a wide variety of projects. He worked at the Curtis Bay Coast Guard yard where he managed teams of maintenance technicians and vendors in the facilities department. He also worked as a project manager for Data Centers where he was responsible for managing maintenance contracts in the critical environment.

In his spare time, David enjoys music, photography and keeping up with the latest technology.

David has a Master of Sciences degree in environmental science and policy from The Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Loyola College (now Loyola University Maryland).

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David earned a Bachelor’s Degree in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, but most of his work experience is in electrical engineering which he gained from working with the highly regulated, nuclear power industry. In nuclear operations management, he oversaw plant operations and maintenance as well as served as a quality assurance compliance engineer.

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Howard County Solar Project
At New Cut Road Landfill

Continued from page 1

Power to Worthington Elementary School. In addition to issuing the RFP, the Authority applied for and received a SunBurst Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration. This grant reduced the overall cost of the project through a reduced kWh cost for the electricity generated.

Howard County offered approximately five acres of property with a long-term license for use on the top of its closed landfill for the solar project.

After reviewing the submitted proposals, the Authority, with direct input from the Howard County Government and the Howard County Board of Education, selected SunEdison as the contractor. The Authority managed the resulting contract and provided project management for the construction process and the SunBurst grant.

Another essential part of the project came from the Board of Education when it provided a defined easement for an underground conduit from the solar panels to the school.

Before beginning construction, SunEdison completed an environmental assessment and geotechnical survey to determine the suitability of the site for the array.

To protect the soil cap, the project design minimized the depth of trenching for conduit runs and the tubs that would hold the solar panels. Additionally, SunEdison designed the array to maintain the existing storm water controls on the landfill.

SunEdison also worked with the local soil conservation district to meet sediment and erosion control requirements for construction projects.

Construction permits were issued in August of 2011 and construction began in early September of 2011. During construction, the contractors used low-ground pressure equipment to minimize impact to the buried landfill gas collection system. The solar project will not interfere with the ongoing operation and maintenance of the County’s landfill gas collection system.

The array was substantially complete in November of 2011 with final operations approval in December of 2011.

The solar project is comprised of 1,908 solar panels on metal girders attached to recycled plastic tubs. The tubs were filled with stone to provide stability. The array rows are oriented on a north-south axis with a 20 degree tilt for the panels. The panel units can be adjusted to compensate for any localized settlement to ensure optimal panel performance. The project will produce approximately 573,000 kWh of electricity in its first year of operation, representing over 90% of the projected energy needs of the school. The Board of Education will pay for the energy generated throughout the life of the 20 year contract.

As part of their outreach to the community, SunEdison provided solar curricula to use for classroom discussions of environmental sustainability and renewable energy.

A ceremonial ribbon cutting for the solar project was held on December 13, 2011. Students from Worthington Elementary School presented research that they had completed on solar technology and acted as Emcees for the event. Invited speakers included County Executive Ken Ulman, Councilwoman Courtney Watson, Board Superintendent Sydney Cousin, Maryland Energy Administration’s Director of Clean Energy Frederick Hoover, and Authority Executive Director Chris Skaggs.

Above is an example of the solar research project students at Worthington Elementary School completed.

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