In 1996, Anne Arundel County (the “County”) has ramped up its curbside, weekly, single stream recycling program and in Calendar Year 2009 recycled over 243,000 tons of waste material classified under the Maryland Recycling Act. However, after recycling, the County has over 120,000 tons of non-recycled waste to manage each year. In the same time period, the Authority has provided waste disposal services for the County, through its contract with a privately owned transfer station in Annapolis Junction. The waste collected there is transported by train to a privately owned landfill in King George County, Virginia. This year, the Virginia legislature imposed a surcharge on all waste, including Maryland waste, disposed in the State. This fee, added to the variable cost of fuel for a 100+ mile trip led to the concern that the next contract would be considerably more expensive than the current contract cost.

In order to obtain a firm cost for future waste disposal budgets, and assure no interruption to waste disposal services, the County asked the Authority to procure a new contract. In November 2010 the Authority issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) from experienced vendors to provide waste disposal services for non-recycled solid waste collected or managed by the County. This RFP was developed through a collaborative effort with the Anne Arundel County Waste Management Services Division of the Department. The new contract... will continue providing Anne Arundel County with reliable service while further extending the valuable landfill life of the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility.
The Covanta Montgomery, Inc. operated Montgomery County Transfer Station in Derwood, MD was awarded Star recognition in the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). An estimated 100 dignitaries, employees and guests were on hand for award ceremonies on August 4, 2011, which culminated in the raising of the coveted VPP Star flag by Covanta employees. The Transfer Station is one of only 15 commercial facilities of all types in the State of Maryland to receive such status. It joins the Authority owned Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson, MD, which received this recognition in 2006, and is the 40th Covanta run facility in North America to earn VPP Star Status.

During the ceremonies, speakers from Covanta, Montgomery County, and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) delivered remarks commemorating this special occasion. They universally praised the Covanta Montgomery team for their diligence and persistence in achieving this recognition. Singled out for their leadership in this effort were Bernard Hill, Chairman of the Transfer Station’s VPP Committee and Brian Donahoe, Facility Manager for the Transfer Station.

The Transfer Station is one of only 15 commercial facilities of all types in the State of Maryland to receive such status.

Dan Locke (Authority Board Member) and Peter Karasik from Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection’s Solid Waste Division, offered congratulations during the ceremonies, while Ted Hoeffer and Beth Hurley from Covanta’s corporate office expressed their best wishes as well. The program ended with remarks and the awarding of the VPP plaque and flag by Eric Uttenreither, Assistant Commissioner of the MOSH unit of DLLR’s Division of Labor and Industry.

Covanta’s employees at the Transfer Station worked for five years in voluntary cooperation with MOSH to earn this recognition. The goal is to provide the safest facility possible for not only its employees, but for other employees of Montgomery County, its patrons and its visitors. This recognition comes after hundreds of hours of preparation and rigorous and repeated inspections by MOSH to assure that Covanta was operating the site above and beyond the standard safety practices for similar facilities. Furthermore, the VPP Star designation indicates a commitment by Covanta to continue to look for further improvements to their operations to protect the health and safety of those that work at and visit the Transfer Station.

The Montgomery County Transfer Station has processed more than 9 million tons of trash since 1993, while recovering approximately 10,000 tons of scrap metal a year. Trash processed is transported via rail to the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility where it is converted into clean, renewable energy that powers some 40,000 homes.
As the ground thawed in early spring of 2011, the New Cut Road Landfill Solar Project (the Project) received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) waiver from the Maryland Public Service Commission. Once the approval hurdle was cleared, more detailed design work for the solar array could begin. The design work for the landfill portion of the Project was completed in mid-July of 2011. SunEdison, the selected developer, submitted the appropriate permit applications to various state and local agencies in late July and early August. The Project received County permit approvals in the middle of August. Installation of the photovoltaic panels is anticipated to start in early September, which means that the students at Worthington Elementary school will be able to see the progress of the construction throughout the fall. The anticipated commissioning of the Project is mid-November of 2011. As designed, this solar facility will provide just over 90% of Worthington Elementary School’s annual electricity needs.

As previously reported, the Authority received a SunBurst Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration to buy down the per kWh cost of the electricity generated by the Project. The solar facility will be constructed with American-made components and pay prevailing wages for the installation work. Authority staff provided procurement management and design review and will continue to provide contract management services on behalf of Howard County and the Howard County Public School System during construction and operations.

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Clockwise is an aerial photograph of the project site, plan set cut out of the panel layout and a plan set cut-out showing the racking system.

Representative picture of the solar panels as they will be installed at the landfill.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
d of Public Works. The Authority managed the procurement; from publishing notice of availability of the RFP in the e-Maryland marketplace and Waste and Recycling News to posting the RFP and subsequent addenda on the Authority’s website. Four firms responded to the RFP.

The evaluation team reviewed the proposals and recommended the lowest cost proposal for contract finalization.

Waste Management of Maryland was awarded the service contract and will accept the waste at the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station. The waste will then be transported by rail to King George Landfill in Virginia. The contract has an initial term of four years, with six, one-year renewals, at the Authority’s sole discretion. The new contract will start on April 12, 2013 and will continue providing Anne Arundel County with reliable service while further extending the valuable landfill life of the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility. For more information on the Authority’s solid waste diversion contracts please call 410.333.2730.

Purpose Contract Provides Uninterrupted Waste Disposal Service for Anne Arundel County

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