

## AUTHORITY STAFF CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MEMBER JURISDICTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC CRISIS



operations departments at many government agencies and private sector companies prepare a continuity of operations plan, commonly called a COOP, to address the “other than normal” events that may impact a county, state or region. The Authority, in previous years, has worked with individual jurisdictions and contractors on contract specific COOPs to address a broad range of natural and man-made events that could disrupt the receipt, transfer, transportation and processing of solid waste or recyclables. Watching the weather, tracking labor disputes and permit conditions are typically contemplated in a COOP. However, few of us have ever had to consider preparing for or applying a COOP in response to a Pandemic, such as the COVID-19 event.

On March 19, the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a memo identifying industry sectors that are critical to maintaining the infrastructure of the United States. Among those are companies and organizations that manage solid waste and recycling services.



ProShot Site Supervisor reviewing plans with Authority's architectural engineer. (Photo by Andrew Kays)

The Authority is continuing to work under the State of Maryland distance work requirements related to management of the COVID-19 outbreak. Our staff is coordinating with service contractors to ensure that solid waste and recycling operations continue to safely meet the needs of each Member Jurisdiction. We are managing a range of permit compliance measures, required by our facility contracts, including groundwater monitoring and reporting, landfill gas collection systems operations, sediment and erosion control, and stormwater feature repairs.

In an effort to help our Member Jurisdictions stay focused on day-to-day

operations under these extraordinary conditions, Authority Project Managers are overseeing site improvements, rate studies and system-wide planning for ongoing projects, as well as planning facility upgrades for future solid waste and recycling operations. We also are providing regular email updates on operations in all of our Member Jurisdictions so that members can stay apprised of what is taking place throughout the region. This information helps our members communicate with their elected officials who face the daunting task of safely managing operations while protecting the health and well-being of local residents and employees.

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## FREDERICK COUNTY SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE, GETTING DOWN TO NUTS AND BOLTS... LITERALLY

**A**ssembly of the array at the Frederick County Solar Project, including erecting the protective fencing, is nearly complete. The construction trailer has been pulled from the site and final touches to grading are planned for the coming weeks (photos on right). Efforts in the last few months have focused on pulling wires and running conduits inside of the influent pump station (IPS) building at the Ballenger-McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant. The last project update in the 2020 Winter issue of *WasteWatch* showed preparation for the battery energy storage system (BESS) pad and building penetrations for the conduit run into the IPS. As an added value to the overall project, the BESS will provide backup power for critical systems at the wastewater treatment plant in the event that grid power is lost at the site. The photos below show the BESS pad progress with the batteries installed and the control panel in place.



WWTP in the Background, Array and Fence in the Foreground

Ameresco has completed installation testing up to the power from the arrays. Tests were completed on the installed wiring, interconnection points, inverters at the array (taking the solar generated DC power and converting to AC power), the transformer and the breakers. Coordination with the utility will be needed for the final testing of the arrays. The Authority has continued to provide updates to the Maryland Department of the Environment on the progress of the project.



Transformer Pad and Weather Station for the Arrays



BESS Pad in Mid-March 2020,  
Batteries Under Cover

*photos provided by Ameresco*



BESS Installed, Cabling Run  
and Control Panel in Place

## FREDERICK COUNTY DAM UPDATE

**T**he Authority has assisted Frederick County with an engineering review of site conditions, design and procurement, as well as construction oversight of repairs to the dam at the Reichs Ford Road Landfill. The dam is part of Frederick County's stormwater controls program at the landfill. An internal procurement was conducted by the Authority with its qualified on-call engineers, for the review of current dam conditions. The RFP included design and construction oversight efforts for necessary repairs.



Test Panel Getting a Knife Finish

Geosyntec Consultants was selected through this process and has performed field work and design. The dam is now ready for the improvement measures, which were approved by the Maryland



Test Panel



Mechanical Face Removal

Department of the Environment in 2019. Construction has begun and is planned to run through early July 2020.

The repairs entail site preparation, removal of some of the aged concrete on the face of the dam, installation of anchors, application of the shotcrete for a new dam face, and site clean-up. The County, the Authority and Geosyntec worked with the selected vendor, ProShot Concrete Inc., during the Fall and Winter to address scheduling issues, final permit approvals, and reviews and approvals for the installation plans. Kick-off for the field work took place on April 28, with review of current stormwater management infrastructure and performance of test panels of the concrete mix and finish. ProShot also demonstrated how they will remove aged concrete from the face of the dam. The depth of concrete removal and placement of new concrete will be confirmed by a field survey and an engineering assessment by Geosyntec. Extra coordination is taking place, in light of the current restrictions due to COVID-19, to make sure that the

contractor can safely install these permit related repairs in a manner that protects landfill staff and others who will be accessing the landfill. The Authority will provide another update on the project in the next edition of *WasteWatch*.



Face Removal Preparation

# BALTIMORE CITY WASTE MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**B**altimore City's Department of Public Works has finalized reports for Tasks 5 and 7 of its Waste Management Master Plan and has

posted the reports on its dedicated webpage titled *Less Waste, Better Baltimore*. Task 5 looks at improvements to the current diversion and recycling system while Task 7 examines options for "What's Left." Below are summaries of

each task update. To review the complete Task reports, click on the following links: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/updates> or <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/lesswaste>



## CALENDAR ITEM



The MRN/SWANA Conference has been postponed and is tentatively scheduled to be held in October 2020.



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