



CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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Engineer: CRRA Plant Should Last ‘At Least until 2028’ Report Praises CRRA’s Focus on Maintenance of Hartford Waste Processing Facility

HARTFORD, Conn. – Investments in capital improvements and a renewed focus on preventative maintenance have left a significant part of Connecticut’s trash disposal system in its best condition since 1993.

That was the finding of a new study of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority’s waste processing facility (WPF), which accepts trash from 70 cities and towns and turns it into fuel for an adjacent electric generating plant.

The study, by Grillo Engineering Company of Hollis, N.H., praised the pro-active stance CRRA has taken in managing the WPF, which is operated by the Metropolitan District under a 24-year-old contract. As a result of CRRA’s actions, the plant is now operating in excess of its design capacity and should be able to do so for decades, the study said.

“At the behest of CRRA last year, the capital improvement plan was implemented and a new management philosophy for maintaining the facility was adopted,” said the study, authored by Leonard M. Grillo, P.E., an expert in solid waste processing. “This combination [has] made remarkable improvements in the ability of the facility to operate as needed.”

The full report is available on-line at CRRA’s Web site. Click to http://www.crra.org/documents/press/Press%20kit/Grillo_Engineering_report_on_WPF_1-2008.pdf .

Since September, the WPF has processed trash at a rate of 90 tons per available hour. “So long as the capital improvement plan and new maintenance policy are followed,” the report said, “the facility should be capable of continuing to process about 90 tons per available hour, which is in excess of the original design capability of the plant, until at least the year 2028.”

Since 2005, CRRA has invested almost \$6 million in capital improvements to the WPF, with plans to invest another \$7 million through 2013. Virtually all of the spending is to overhaul, replace or, in many instances, upgrade equipment – items such as shredders, motors and conveyors – that wears out from processing garbage 16 hours a day.

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“The WPF is the linchpin of our Mid-Connecticut Project, and the people of the 70 towns can be assured that it will provide this vital public health and environmental protection service reliably, safely and efficiently for years and years to come,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president.

The WPF is unique among Connecticut’s six trash-to-energy plants. The state’s five other facilities – in Bridgeport, Wallingford, Preston, Bristol and Lisbon – use mass-burn technology, where unprocessed trash is fed directly into furnaces. But in Hartford, CRRA retrofitted a decommissioned coal-fired power plant and built the WPF to processing trash into a fuel that can be augured into its furnaces.

This refuse-derived fuel (RDF) is burned to produce steam, which spins turbines to generate electricity. A detailed explanation of the process can be found at http://www.crra.org/pages/proj_midconn_facilities.htm#rdf.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA’s four solid waste projects serve 118 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through the Trash Museum in Hartford and Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>. Computer users can also discuss CRRA at its blog, <http://crra-blog.blogspot.com>.