

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Date: September 10, 2019

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: The Gothic Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson

**1. ATTENDEES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Eric Cronquist	No		voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Lauren Greenberger	Yes	SCA President	voting member	Sugarloaf Citizen's Association (SCA)
Richard Hill	Yes		voting member	For A Rural Maryland (FARM)
Jane Hunter	Yes		voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Paula Jenson	Yes		voting member	Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Mark Maier	Yes	DAFIG Chair	voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Steven Mendelsohn	Yes		voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Kathy Mihm	No		voting member	Town of Poolesville
Seth Schwartz	Yes		voting member	Sugarloaf Citizen's Association (SCA)
Stephen Poss	Yes		voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Kraig Walsleben	Yes		voting member	Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB)
VACANT			voting member	<b>Resident, Affected Community</b>
Aaron Hill	No		non-voting member	
David Blackmore	Yes		non-voting member	Covanta
Katherine Nelson	No		non-voting member	Montgomery County Planning Board
Lonnie Heflin	Yes	Section Chief	non-voting member	Montgomery County DEP/Resource Management Section
Peter Heimlicher	Yes	Compliance Specialist	non-voting member	GenOn
Willie Wainer	No	Division Chief	non-member	Montgomery County DEP/Recycling & Resource Management Division
Joe LaDana	Yes	Senior Engineer	non-member	Montgomery County DEP/ Resource Management Section
Ray Liou	No		non-member	Montgomery County DEP/Resource Management Section
Steve Martin	Yes	Environmental Compliance Supervisor	non-member	Montgomery County DEP
Charlie Bradford	Yes	Senior Operations Manager	non-member	Maryland Environmental Service
Nick D'Amato	Yes	Project Manager	non-member	Maryland Environmental Service
Tim Ford	Yes	Chief – Project Management	non-member	Maryland Environmental Service
Steve Tomczewski	No	Env. Ops. Managing Director	non-member	Maryland Environmental Service
Mark Abrams	No	President	non-member	Technical Environmental Services, LLC
Jim Evans	No		guest	Resident, Affected Community

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maier called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Lonnie Heflin asked for the groups patience because minutes will be taken manually for this meeting. Recording unit to be available for future meetings.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

Voting and non-voting members of DAFIG were introduced.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

- A. Chairman Maier made a motion to accept and adopt the agenda as presented for this meeting. Motion was seconded, and with no objections, the motion passed.
- B. Chairman Maier asked for any updates or changes for the June 11, 2019 DAFIG Meeting Minutes. None were requested and the June 11, 2019 DAFIG Meeting minutes were approved.

**5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A. Chairman Maier reminded attendees the DAFIG Vice-Chair position remains open.
- B. Chairman Maier announced there is a DAFIG voting member vacancy for a resident of the “Affected Community”
  - a. Seth Schwartz asked for a definition of “Affected Community”
    - i. Jane Hunter and other attendees listed Boyds, Darnestown, Dickerson, Poolesville, etc.
- C. RRF Best-In-Class status update:
  - a. Dave Blackmore distributed handout for update. *Note: Handout is attached to minutes and will be posted on the DAFIG website.*
  - b. Mr. Blackmore said many of the items on the list of facility improvements Covanta provided to the County were created before his arrival at the facility in March 2017.
    - i. 54 items on list. 48 complete.
    - ii. \$32 MM invested in the plant by Covanta
  - c. 6 incomplete items.
    - i. **Item 1:** One Finishing Super Heater required for dry steam was replaced.  
**Item 2:** On inspection after removal, replacement of other units was not needed. Replacement of the two other Finishing Super Heaters postponed. Covanta has a spare unit in inventory if needed.
    - ii. **Item 3:** Grate replaced on Unit 1.  
**Item 4:** Grate replaced on Unit 2  
**Item 5:** Due to increased trash volume in March, replacement of Unit 3 grate is scheduled for the December 2019 outage.
    - iii. **Item 6:** The three ash conditioners (pug mills) are scheduled to be installed by the end of December 2019. Units will improve ash quality.
  - d. In 2016, 86% availability. In 2019, 90%+ availability. Significant improvement.
  - e. Chairman Maier noted that graph on page 2 of handout shows tons processed increasing, although jagged line.

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

- f. Mr. Blackmore: In 2016, 58,000 tons (approx.) were by-passed. FY19 – total processed tons were 631,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in facility history. 640,000 tons in 2003-2004.
  - i. Waste tonnage was high in the spring, beginning to level off now. Spring surge was unusual, current drop off matches historical waste flow volumes.
- g. Mr. Maier: is the County aware waste volumes increasing?
- h. Steve Mendelsohn: What is capacity of facility?
- i. Joe LaDana: Permitted capacity is 657,000 tons. Total capacity is based on the Higher Heating Value of the waste processed. Lower BTU waste effectively increases tonnage capacity.
- j. Seth Schwartz: Noted totals error on page 2 of handout.
  - i. Dave Blackmore: Will correct and re-submit.
- k. Group discussion of tonnage projection methods, calculations and if they are part of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan.
- l. Mr. Maier: Does Covanta participate in the Planning Process? Mr. Blackmore responded no.
  - i. Mr. Heflin: The Authority is directly involved in the planning and forecasting process.
- m. Mr. Maier asked Mr. Blackmore if the facility was “Best in Class” now?
  - i. Mr. Blackmore: “My performance evaluated based on Environment, Safety, and Production.”
    - Emissions: No reportable excursions.
    - Safety: 395 days without a reportable lost time accident. Last one caused by safety line clamp sliding down , cutting the finger of I & E tech.
    - Production: Facility currently operating at 93% availability.
      - a. Adjusting steam flow based on trash flow. Trash flow now decreasing.
      - b. Based on current trash flow, 620,000 tons projected for the year.
- n. Mr. Maier: Do we have things under control?
  - i. Mr. Blackmore: Yes. Changes at the transfer station, infrared cameras for detecting pit fires, improved fire system with water cannons.
  - ii. Mr. Maier: Thank you. If need something for the facility, please speak up so DAFIG can be of assistance.
  - iii. Mr. Blackmore:
    - Staffing: Struggling to maintain staff.
      - a. I & E technician retiring, trying to fill now.
      - b. Truck drivers have been a challenge.
    - Review of charts & graphs. August availability: 100%
      - a. 96% capacity

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

- Outage scheduled for 12/2/2019. 2 weeks.
    - a. 2 outages planned per year, Spring and December.
  - According to original documents, facility was designed to process 1,800 tons/day, with no expansion capacity. Created built-in limitations to force residents to recycle more. The facility is not approaching capacity.
  - iv. Mr. LaDana: Facility can run at up to 103%.
  - v. Mr. Blackmore: Higher BTU value in the material, reduces tons/day capacity.
  - o. Mr. Maier: Can Capacity vs. HHV (Higher Heating Value) as part of graph legend? Mr. Blackmore will work on having this added.
  - p. Ms. Greenberger: Why is plastic a problem for MCRRF?
  - q. Mr. Blackmore: The higher the BTU value of the material, the less tons that can be processed.
  - r. Ms. Greenberger: What about organics?
    - i. Discussion amongst group regarding percentage of organics in waste stream.
      - Review of recent waste composition study needed for actual percentage of organics.
      - Is the organics percentage a problem? What material would you like to have?
  - s. Mr. Blackmore: Consistent material, with little variation in BTU value.
  - t. Mr. Mendelsohn: What about the weather?
  - u. Mr. Blackmore: Moisture is not much of an issue. Residents use plastic bags for their trash. Waste containers are closed.
- D. DAFIG Master Plan update:
- a. Mr. Maier discussed DAFIG needs and concerns and DAFIG's desire for more funds, including for additional monitoring, updated health risk assessment, model, usage of actual measurements, new master plan.
  - b. Mr. Heflin explained requests for additional budget funding needs specifics on purpose and cost of additional items.
  - c. Recycling and Resource Management Division of DEP currently working on FY 2021 budget.
  - d. Mr. Maier asked for DAFIG to **get a copy of the DAFIG FY20 budget by September 17<sup>th</sup>** The Chair asked if there is money in the FY20 budget for the Master Plan. Mr. Heflin confirmed that there is. The Chair requested **the budget be shared with the group.**
- E. Fire Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action Plan:
- a. Mr. Maier asked when the insurance settlement will be finalized.
  - b. Mr. Heflin said the Authority, Covanta, and F.M. Global have been meeting regularly to try to get this settled. Hopefully by October, but no guarantee.
  - c. Mr. Maier asked what was the total and detailed costs of the fire which should be public, not how much is being negotiated with insurance and Covanta.

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

F. County Solid Waste Master Plan update:

- a. Master Plan Task Summaries, with Task number, brief description and completion status are available at this link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/master-plan.html>
- b. Mr. Heflin stated County review of Task # 9, the evaluation of options for what to do with what is left should be complete by September 15th. The current schedule is for Task 9 to be available for Zero Waste Task Force review by 9/23/2019.
- c. Lauren Greenberger reported Task updates are circulated to SWAC through Sarah Bixby.

G. Acceptance of Minutes

- a. Chairman Maier requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the June 11, 2019 DAFIG meeting.
  - i. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

H. Environmental Impact Monitoring Update:

- a. Mr. Heflin explained the SO<sub>2</sub> Study report by Sullivan Environmental Consulting did not meet specifications to compare the HRA model's predictions to the actual measurements.
- b. MES working closely with the County and contractor to resolve issues.
- c. Report to be presented at December meeting.

I. DEP Compliance and Complaints

- a. Mr. Heflin relayed the report from Steve Martin of DEP who was not able to attend, there had been no complaints received since the June meeting.

**6. FACILITIES UPDATES**

RRF

Majority of data gone over during best in class update. Mr. Blackmore said annual stack testing had been completed. Stack test results are posted on the County website. Ms. Greenberger asked if Covanta does continuous monitoring?

- a. Mr. Blackmore said yes. Along with continuous monitoring verification by stack testing, there is annual RATA (Relative Accuracy Test Audit) on the systems to insure accuracy. RATA testing done by TESTAR.
- b. Ms. Greenberger asked if this data was available on line and asked to receive a history of stack and RATA testing.
- c. Mr. LaDana pointed out that he believes past reports were submitted to the Poolesville library, but he was not sure if the practice was discontinued due to lack of use at the library.
- d. Mr. Maier asked if Covanta could provide an emissions trend line analysis of past 12 and next 12 months.
  - i. Mr. Blackmore said Mercury had been falling. Will review data to determine best way to present.

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**COMPOST FACILITY**

Nick D'Amato, new Project Manager for MES introduced himself to the group and presented the Compost Facility information.

- a. Mr. Maier requested a legend be added that describes the various materials sold from the facility.
- b. The pH rise in some of the ponds was discussed. MES to investigate and report back to the group at the next meeting.

**GENON**

Mr. Heimlicher announced ash had been hauled from the Westlands Ash Landfill over the past three months. Mr. Heimlicher asked if any of members had noticed. Mr. Schwartz said he had noticed some increased truck traffic in the past month, but nothing exceptional.

The load count for June-August was:

<b>Month</b>	<b># of Truck Trips</b>	<b>Tons</b>
June	99	2,300
July	324	7,000
August	275	6,500

Trucks start at 7 AM. Round trip time to Union Bridge, MD is approximately 2 hours. The material hauled was from the lined area of the landfill as part of agreement with MDE to create larger stormwater management area.

Total quantity of material to be moved may not be 5 million tons. Supply to the Union Bridge facility is strictly Just-In-Time. Cement plant in Martinsburg, WV could be 40% of project.

- a. Ms. Greenberger asked if the Community Meeting had been held?
- b. Mr. Heimlicher said not yet, but emphasized the meeting date and time would be advertised.
  - i. MDE approval has not yet been received on the ash removal plan.
  - ii. GenOn has provided MDE with everything requested, including a rail vs. truck study.
  - iii. Only material from lined area is being hauled prior to full MDE approval of plan.
  - iv. Ash must be conditioned, 20%-23% moisture to limit dust.
  - v. Drivers using air bags on their trucks for weight estimates.
  - vi. COMAR requires the trucks to be inspected by driver on each load. All surfaces where material could collect must be inspected and if needed, swept off by driver before leaving site.
    - Driver must sign form for each load that must stay in truck for 30 days per inspection.

Group discussion of 2018 spill containment boom deployment at Whites Ferry. Mr. Heimlicher relayed details of test including challenges of keeping boom in place in high flow conditions. Down river drinking water authorities very interested in boom protection for their water intakes. Additional boom deployment drills being discussed.

**DICKERSON AREA FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**  
**(DAFIG)**

**September 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**7. PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS**

Mr. Heimlicher asked if DAFIG meetings could start at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. There was no objection. Chairman Maier said the December 2019 meeting would start at 7:00 PM.

**8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURN**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM. There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, voted on and passed.