

MINUTES

ESSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting - Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex County Solid Waste Advisory Council was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at Garibaldi Hall located at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ... The Recycling Coordinator's meeting began at 1:10 pm. The SWAC meeting immediately followed at 2:10 p.m.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Russell A. Jones, Jr., Livingston
Jean Clark, LWV
Rob Teeter, PMK Group
Jared Eudell, PMK Group
Rich Erickson, PMK Group
Michael Onysko, Essex County Utilities Authority
Don Wharton, East Orange
George Kimiecik, Covanta Energy
Richard Ferricola, South Orange
Nick Salese, Sr., West Orange
Gerard Shimonaski, Verona
Eric Burbank, Maplewood
Sandra Berardi, West Caldwell
Howard Levison, South Orange
Craig Brandon, Montclair
Gary Schall, Roseland
Alexander A. Trento, West Caldwell
Tim Monaham, Millburn
Ken Ventre, Millburn
Nick Maddaloni, ECHD
Daniel Donovan, Cedar Grove
Brenda Anderson, City of Newark
Mario Bifalco, Caldwell
Roger Kerr, Essex Fells
Patty Davis, Nutley
Salvatore Ferraro, Nutley
Ronald Kall, Fairfield
Kim Greene, Newark
David Yenior, Sierra Club
Bill Chaple, Newark resident

The Recycling Coordinators meeting began at 1:10 p.m. and adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Fernicola called the Essex County Solid Waste Advisory Council meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The meeting is in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act. Publication of the meeting of the Essex County Solid Waste Advisory Council had previously been made and the public is invited to speak as noted on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 24, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

- The Chairperson thanked everyone for coming to the SWAC meeting and informed the certified coordinators to make sure they fill out the sign in sheet because he does send the sheet to leslie so that you can get the 2 credits.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Essex County Utilities Authority/PMK Group

- As part of the Recycling Coordinator's Meeting, Rob Teeter and Jared Eudell from PMK discussed the following topics:

Mr. Teeter welcomed everyone to the recycling coordinators meeting. He stated that any certified recycling coordinator will receive 2 credits for attending the recycling and SWAC meetings. This has been approved by Rutgers.

2009 Municipal Tonnage Reports and Resolutions. Mr. Teeter reminded the council that the 2009 Municipal Tonnage Grant Reports should be in by April 30, 2010 to Joe Davis of the NJDEP electronically. Joe indicated to Rob that there would be less grace period on late submittals. Also please copy the ECUA on the report and that PMK is available to help assist the municipalities if they need it. Mr. Onysko said that he has received some information on 2009 tonnage that he will forward to the municipalities.

Food Waste Recycling Meeting Recap. Jarad attended a Food Waste recycling seminar that took place on December 8, 2009 in Parsippany. One topic discussed was food shed recycling where businesses get together and find a certain location to bring food waste to then a hauler can pick it up and bring it to the food waste facility such as Ag Choice, Connected Organics etc.. Some colleges are doing in vessel composting such as Kean College. He indicated that if you do the in vessel composting on site that your hauler will need a permit to haul it and that you would probably need an air permit.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling. Jarad of PMK asked if anyone has contacted Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) on getting boxes for the rechargeable batteries. Nick Salese of West Orange said that he did and that they were going to send him the boxes. Nick said that you get the boxes for free and when they are full you send it back to them for free.

ECUA Recycling Website Updates.

1. Smoke Alarm/Detector disposal information. These items can be disposed at a company called Fiberx, they have said that they will take any smoke/alarm detectors.
2. Recycling Symbols. This update will identify different types of symbols on recycling products such as plastic containers etc..
3. Frequently asked questions. This web page now has an index which makes it a lot easier to find what you want.
4. Updated municipal coordinators contact and recycling center locations. Please make sure that the information is correct, if not we will change it.

A request was made to post the upcoming meeting minutes on the Web site prior to the meeting. PMK said that they will try to do this.

Waste Recycling Enhancement Act (REA). PMK indicated that the ECUA had applied for and received a REA grant. This grant will allow the ECUA to go out to businesses and multi-family housing complexes to educate them on the regulations of recycling and assist them in getting started. On site audits could be performed so that they could be directed on better recycling management.

NJDEP Leaf Transfer Exemption.

Mr. Maddaloni informed municipalities that if they wish to operate a leaf transfer operation within their boundaries, they must apply and be approved for exemption 19 from the NJDEP. Nick has the forms needed and will assist you if

needed. The only towns as of this meeting that are registered with them State of NJ are Newark, Bloomfield, South Orange, and West Orange according of Ross Hull of the NJDEP. Mr. Maddaloni also indicated that the DEP is performing inspections of leaf transfer sites in the county and also the colleges for recycling.

Legislative/Regulatory Updates. PMK informed the committee that a bill was introduced in 2008 and was again reintroduced in January 2010 called "Plastic Grocery Bag Recycling Act". This act would require any store that has over 10,000 square feet of space will have to provide a means for recycling plastic bags. The bills are A1246 and S238. The store owner shall make re-useable bags available in the store.

Recycling News. If you transfer soil in New Jersey, you must have a certification on the condition of the soil such as clean fill, hazardous etc..

PMK is looking for information on who would manufacture of a 6 – 10 yard collection vehicle with a lifting bed for tipping into dumpsters. Mr. Fernicola of South Orange suggested that they call Bristol Donald truck body.

Essex County Utilities Authority

Mr. Onysko said that the ECUA is in the process of putting together the Spring HHW day collection event to be held on May 1st and the Computer and Electronics day on May 15th. Mr. Onysko also stated that both events are being held at the Essex County Fleet Maintenance garage in Cedar Grove. The events will be listed on the ECUA web site.

Covanta Energy

Hank Asher of Covanta indicated that the facility is in the middle of an outage which should end about January 31. This outage should have no impact on the operation of the facility. Mr. Asher also informed the council that boiler number 2 will have a scheduled outage in the middle of February and the last outage will be at the end of March or beginning of April. The outages should take about two weeks each.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

No representation

5. PRESENTATIONS - None

PLAN AMENDMENTS

Mr. Onysko indicated that there was one plan amendment being brought before the council today. The plan amendment is for Covanta Energy facility also known as the Resource Recovery Facility. Covanta is applying for a minor modification to divert up to 65,000 tons of waste per year and be brought to one of their other waste to energy facilities. The purpose for this request is that during the course of the year Covanta has scheduled outages and sometimes unscheduled ones. This causes the queuing lines to get backed up. Should this occur, Covanta would like to transfer waste to one of their other facilities. This modification does not give Covanta an increase in their permit capacity. The facility can only process what the current permit allows, this being 985,000 tons per year. The plant is currently processing about 920,000 tons per year.

Mr. Onysko asked the council if there were any questions. In attendance was Mr. David Yenoir of the Sierra Club. Mr. Yenoir had asked various questions concerning the facility amendment as follows:

Is the 65,000 tons that Covanta wants to divert from the facility in addition to the current amount? The answer was no, there permit allows them to take 985,000 tons per year and they in no way can exceed this amount.

How does a hauler know that he cannot bring waste to the facility?

The answer is that the hauler does not know, when the waste comes into the facility and there is down time, it may take a little longer to process the waste through. Therefore the diversion project would allow Covanta remove the waste off the floor to one of their other facilities allowing the trucks to move in and out faster and reduce the idling time.

Can the waste be diverted to another facility before it comes to the Essex plant?

The answer is that as far as Essex waste, it must go to the facility since it is the designated one for Essex processable waste. If for some reason the facility went down totally, then the waste would have to be diverted.

My understanding is that the majority of the waste comes from New York.

The answer is that all waste in excess of Essex waste is considered out of county waste not New York waste. Therefore what is being referred to as New York waste is really a combination of several New Jersey counties such as Hudson, Union, Middlesex, Passaic, Morris, and Camden, and also other states as Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts. This waste could possibly be diverted but it must first pass through the facility. There would be no decreasing in truck traffic but it would allow them to pass through at a normal pace instead of backing up. This would surely cause additional trucks but at a rate of maybe one transfer trailer to every six or seven trucks.

A question was asked by one of the municipalities if there was any information on the contract with Covanta.

Mr. Onysko informed the council that a letter went out to all the mayors indicating the five year extension of the current contract. He also said that a press conference was held by the County

Executive last week where he stated that the tipping fee is substantially lower than the existing rate and that at the fifth year the rate will still be lower than it is now. In this extension there would be no surcharged and no minimum or maximum tonnage required.

After all of this, a motion was made to approve the application of Covanta. The Amendment was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

OLD BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Mr. Bill Chapel, a Newark resident, indicated that Household Nuclear waste has no place to go. Essex County does not have a program to accept it and they will not take at the Household Hazardous waste collection day event.

Mr. Chapel was told that if he goes on to the ECUA web site he will see a company called Firex that will accept smoke and fire detectors at no charge. Mr. Chapel stated that he did see this on the web site but when he called the company they told him that they are not required to take them by the EPA. PMK said that they had called about 2 months ago and were informed to send the items to the. Mr. Erickson of PMK called the company during the meeting and was again informed that they do accept them.

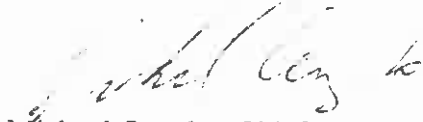
Mr. Yenoir of the Sierra Club stated that the State requires all buildings to have these detectors so they are obligated to have some place to dispose of the old ones. He indicated that when the County/ECUA holds its HHW and Computer recycling days they should take these items also and dispose of them properly. Mr. Onysko said that the ECUA is not the ones accepting the items. The ECUA goes out to bid and the vendor that wins the contract will not accept nuclear waste. Mr. Onysko said he would stay on top of this issue.

Mr. Yenoir also said that there are many multi-family dwellings that do not recycle. Mr. Onysko informed Mr. Yenoir that each town has an ordinance that requires recycling and that they should be administering this ordinance through enforcement. Mr. Maddaloni of the Essex County Health Department said that his agency is available to assist the towns in enforcing the recycling laws if they need it. There is a program in effect at the Covanta facility that conducts inspections on incoming loads for excess recyclables. Mr. Maddaloni receives a copy of the report and if the hauler is a constant offender he would take action against them. He also informs the towns so that they can then approach the hauler.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at hand, the Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Onysko, Chief – Engineering/ Operations
Essex County Utilities Authority