

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes for June 17, 2021

WEB CONFERENCE

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Carolyn Watson, rep by Dorcas Dee Daniel-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of
Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Ron Kent, rep by Paul Ghougassian, Southern California Gas Company
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Rob Williams, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Paulina Kolic, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Nam Doan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Brian Moffatt, StormFisher
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works
Narek Vartunian, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2021 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ben Lucha. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION – TAYLOR BIOMASS ENERGY, LLC.

Mr. Mark Paisley with Taylor Biomass Energy, LLC. (Taylor) presented on their gasification technology. The Taylor facility in Montgomery, New York accepts various waste feedstocks, including construction and demolition (C&D) debris and wood waste from land clearing, and produces renewable energy. The facility is expanding to add capacity to accept an additional 500 tons per day (TPD) of municipal solid waste (MSW).

Mr. Wayde Hunter asked about the footprint and throughput of the facility. Mr. Paisley responded the facility will sit on 5 acres and the throughput will be about 300 TPD of biomass or 1,000 TPD of untreated MSW. Mr. Hunter asked about the cost to build a similar facility. Mr. Paisley could not give a definitive answer because costs are site specific.

Mr. Sheppard asked about preprocessing at the facility. Mr. Paisley responded that the facility will accept untreated MSW. Recyclables will be sorted out for recovery and hazardous materials will be sorted out for disposal. The biomass content, such as wood, organic residues, food, leather, plastics, carpeting, and synthetic materials, will be gasified.

Mr. Sheppard asked if Taylor is exploring the potential to create other products such as transportation fuel or chemicals. Mr. Paisley responded that the gas created at the facility can be used to produce hydrocarbon fuels or synthetic natural gas. Mr. Sheppard asked if the State of New York offers renewable portfolio credits for electricity production. Mr. Paisley responded that their facility does receive credits that are dependent on the feedstock. Mr. Sheppard asked if Taylor is exploring the permitting pathway and potential sites in California. Mr. Paisley responded they are not currently exploring any projects in California.

Mr. Hunter asked if there are any emissions from their facility. Mr. Paisley responded that there are emissions from the gas turbine which meet all emissions standards.

Mr. Sheppard asked if there is a maximum moisture content for the feedstock that Taylor's technology can accept. Mr. Paisley responded that the maximum limit for moisture content is 30 percent, and the typical moisture content of biomass separated from MSW is 15 to 20 percent.

Mr. Sheppard asked about the size and throughput of each gasifier module. Mr. Paisley responded that the modules will have a capacity of 300 TPD of biomass sized at 15-by-15 feet.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Nam Doan gave an update on policy and legislation.

- At the recent CalRecycle monthly meeting on June 15, 2021, CalRecycle stated they will continue to update their Short-Lived Climate Pollutant website with implementation tools and guidance. They are also developing new web pages including one focused on guidance for elected officials.
- An update was provided on Assembly Bill 1826 - Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling:
 - The City of Monrovia and the City of Glendora submitted plans to CalRecycle to address the gaps in implementation for Assembly Bill 1826. CalRecycle approved their plans.
 - CalRecycle will closely monitor both Cities for the next 6 months to ensure their submitted plans are being implemented.

Mr. Mohajer asked what programs the Cities of Monrovia and Glendora are implementing in order to comply with CalRecycle's requirements. Mr. Doan responded he would follow up with Mr. Mohajer on the programs.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Mr. Doan provided an update of 10 events that can also be found in the [Conversion Technology \(CT\) newsletter](#), and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- Waste EXPO: June 28 - 30, 2021, Las Vegas, NV
- The World Biogas Summit 2021, July 6 – 8, 2021, virtual
- Biomass Summit & Expo: July 13 – 15, 2021, Des Moines, IA
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: High Diversion Facilities: July 22, 2021, virtual
- Resource Recycling Conference & Trade Show: August 4 – 5, 2021, virtual
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 18, 2021, San Diego, CA

- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 19, 2021, virtual
- The International Conference on Thermochemical Conversion Science: September 14 – 16, 2021, Denver, CO
- CEAC Policy Conference: September 15 – 16, 2021, virtual
- Renewable National Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that the Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference will be held in person on November 10, 2021, in Ontario, California.

In light of the State mandates lifted on June 15, 2021, Mr. Hunter asked when the County would lift its restrictions on in person meetings. Mr. Sheppard responded there is currently no expected date for the County to reopen its buildings to the public. Mr. Coby Skye stated that meetings will likely be held remotely through September 2021.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Christine Arbogast stated that Tetra Tech is:

- Supporting Public Works in preparing a report back to the Board of Supervisors in response to a June 8, 2021 Board motion to Enhance Countywide Solid Waste Management through Expanded Programs and Infrastructure Investments. The report will include a discussion of conversion technology facilities. The report is due back to the Board in September 2021.
- Supporting Public Works in developing fact sheets on different types of anaerobic digestion (AD).
- Continuing support of Public Works in analyzing environmental benefits of greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with AD.
- In response to Subcommittee comments on a fact sheet comparing AD development in Europe vs. United States, expanding the fact sheet to be a white paper on AD.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 10 a.m.