

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

Minutes of May 17, 2012

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Conference Room B
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suk Chong, Chair, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

David Cieply, Republic- Allied Waste Company
Jacques Franco, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Kay Martin, Bio Energy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Mark McDannel, represented by Matt Eaton, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traecey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc (ARI)
Becky Bendikson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Community Advisory Committee
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services
Chip Clements, Clements Environmental
Macaria Flores*, Cerrell Associates
William Gorham*, Cerrell Associates
George Gomez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Betsy Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Jacqueline Maddox, Clements Environmental
Scott Miller, Victory Plan Concept
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Steve Simmon, Plasco Energy Group

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Suk Chong called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 19, 2012 MEETING

Approval of the minutes was deferred for the next Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) meeting for lack of a quorum.

III. VICTORY PLANT CONCEPT

Mr. Scott Miller introduced to the ATAS the Victory Plant Certification Concept. This Group was convened by Biofuels Digest to develop a certification for advanced biofuel projects producing a minimum of 5 million gallons per year of biofuel that will meet the EPA renewable fuel standard definition of low carbon fuels. Mr. Miller provided a PowerPoint presentation and elaborated on the concepts' mission to initiate community trust and speedy approval of advanced biorefineries at the most sustainable locations.

IV. PLASCO ENERGY GROUP PRESENTATION

Mr. Steve Simmons provided a PowerPoint presentation and introduced to the ATAS Plasco Energy, an innovative technology company that converts post-recycled municipal waste to green power and other valuable products via plasma arc gasification. They have an operating facility in Ottawa, Canada. Mr. Simmons added that Plasco Energy Group was selected by the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, to develop, build, own, and operate a 450 ton per day waste conversion facility. Mr. Mohajer, asked what technology is being proposed for the Salinas valley project. Mr. Simmons stated that the facility will be a sister facility to the one on Ottawa, using the same technology. This facility will be situated on 7 acres of land. Mr. Mohajer asked what percent of organic material feedstock is required to operate the Plasco gasifier. Mr. Simmons was not able to provide this information. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Simmons to research the information and report back. Mr. Mohajer noted that CalRecycle is proposing regulations in response to AB 341 that is intended to remove all of the recyclable and compostable materials from the waste stream for recycling or composting, which may leave no suitable material for a thermal conversion technology such as the Plasco project.

V. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Ms. Traecy Anthony provided the following updates:

- Over the past month, ARI in conjunction with Cerrel's subcontractor Teknowledge, has been focused on finalizing the web models and databases, including the confirmation of information from companies; restructuring the databases to accommodate the web format; testing and de-bugging the sorting and modeling functions; finalizing descriptive text and print outputs; and coordinating the relocation of materials from the temporary web location to the County-hosted website.
- ARI continues working with County staff and Cerrell Associates to coordinate meetings with other stakeholders in the County to discussed potential project development activities.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Mr. William Gorham provided the following updates:

- The County and Cerrell Associates are currently participating in the California Contract Cities Annual Municipal Conference, to educate and share the positive message of conversion technologies (CTs) to cities that contract services with the County of Los Angeles.
- On May 8 and 9, 2012, the County, Cerrell, and other stakeholders had successful meetings in Sacramento with the Director of CalRecycle, the Chair of the California Air Resources Board, a Commissioner of California Energy Commission, and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Coby Skye added that the Sacramento meetings were a success thanks to the broad coalition invited by the County representing local government agencies, utilities, universities, recycling industry, and environmental community. The purpose of these meetings was to begin a constructive dialogue on conversion technology development that is currently taking place in several locations throughout California.

Mr. Mohajer stated that on the same day as those meetings, May 9, 2012, CalRecycle released *California's New Goal: 75% Recycling Report*, the first draft of a white paper CalRecycle is preparing for the Legislature pursuant to AB 341.

Conversion technologies are not mentioned in the state's proposed strategy to achieve 75% source reduction, composting, and recycling by 2020. Mr. Mohajer requested staff to provide the ATAS members with a copy of the meeting summaries and also share with the ATAS the plan that is being promoted by the County and the Coalition. Mr. Chong noted that it is likely unrealistic to have expected that the visit by the Coalition could have resulted in changes to a document being released the same day, that was no doubt in the process of being drafted for several months prior.

VII. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN

Mr. Chong noted that a draft copy of the Conversion Technology Action Plan was distributed to the ATAS. Mr. Mohajer referred to the last paragraph of page one which reads: *This Conversion Technology Action Plan (CT Action Plan) will review some of the most advanced municipal conversion technology projects in the State of California, identify the key hurdles that projects have historically faced, and strategize ways for overcoming those hurdles in order for projects to reach successful completion.* Mr. Mohajer asked if the ATAS and staff had become familiar with the key hurdles after 14 years.

Because of the limited time remaining, Mr. Chong proposed to have the ATAS members provide any feedback on the Action Plan by email to staff, and to set aside time at the next ATAS meeting to discuss the Action Plan in detail.

RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

No updates were given.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Carlos Ruiz, Principal Engineer with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works stated that these discussions don't have to be antagonistic. County staff is requesting feedback from the ATAS and if the ATAS members have recommendations to make, County will gladly consider them, and County staff has always been glad to work with the ATAS.

Ms. Betsey Landis requested to include in the May 17, 2012 minutes a comment she made regarding the Conversion Technology Action Plan.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 21, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.