



IWSA WEEKLY UPDATE
October 17, 2008

WTE DEVELOPMENTS

Waste-to-energy was on display this week as Columbia University's Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WTERT) hosted a highly successful 2008 Bi-Annual Conference in New York City on October 16-17. Distinguished individuals in the field of waste-to-energy from the United States and abroad provided participants with the latest developments on policy, research, and technology in the field of waste-to-energy. The conference also conducted a session open to the public focusing on the ability of waste-to-energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. WTERT also recognized two IWSA members with their prestigious awards: Artie Cole of Wheelabrator Technologies received the 2008 Outstanding Contribution Award for his achievements in a 30 year career in the industry and Covanta Energy received the 2008 Industry Award for its LN and VLN technologies to reduce NOx emissions.

President Bush signed into law this week the rail safety legislation which contains IWSA's priority legislation to regulate rail-based waste transfer stations in the same manner as other waste management facilities. While we were confident that this would occur after Congress approved the legislation two weeks ago, it is always nice to receive the final seal of approval.

Contribute to next year's NAWTEC by submitting your abstract to make a presentation by October 31, 2008! NAWTEC 17 will take place May 18-20, 2009 in Chantilly, VA. Abstracts are being solicited in the following broad issue areas: WTE Plant Operations and Retrofit Projects, Conversion Technologies Being Implemented or Tested, *Innovative Projects and Management Practices*, and *Applied Research and Technology*. Authors of accepted abstracts must submit full papers for peer review in order to present at the conference. Only one presenter per paper is permitted, unless otherwise arranged. All abstracts must be submitted online by October 31, 2008. For more information or to submit an abstract, visit ASME's website at www.asmeconferences.org/NAWTEC17. If you have questions, please contact Shannon Crawford at scrawford@swana.org or 240-494-2241.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 2008 IWSA Membership Meeting, which will take place December 10-11 in Washington, DC. The meeting will kick off with a dinner on the evening of December 10th hosted by the IWSA Board of Directors. Participants will then gather on December 11th to discuss the issues facing the Association, including legislative and regulatory updates.

IN THE COMMITTEES

IWSA staff and members participate in the WTERT 2008 Bi-Annual Conference in New York this week October 16-17. (*Technology Committee*)

During WASTECON next week, please attend IWSA's session on the role of waste-to-energy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Keith Weitz of RTI and Nickolas Themelis of Columbia University will discuss the greenhouse gas reducing attributes of waste-to-energy during the pane which will take place on October 21 at 4:00pm. (*Technology Committee*)

RELATED STORIES

Letter to the Editor, Frederick Gazette (MD), 10/16/08: I have noticed that some wish to continue the substantive discussion on the merits of a regional waste-to-energy (WTE) facility for Carroll and Frederick counties even though a majority of both boards of commissioners favor this approach. I have no objections to continued discussion. I do object to non-facts being shared to try to influence the public. A modern waste-to-energy plant is a tightly regulated power plant that is fueled by garbage, rather than coal, oil or nuclear energy. The garbage burns to create steam in a boiler, the steam turns a turbine, and the turbine puts electricity into the grid. The air emissions are more tightly regulated than the emissions from a coal-fueled power plant. The proposal is for a plant capable of processing 1,500 tons per day. Frederick is building 900 tons for itself, and Carroll County is building 600 tons for itself at the same site. Carroll is a financial partner and will be a 40 percent partner. We will not need the capacity to handle 1,500 tons all the time. It is a maximum rating, not a minimum requirement. Like the speedometer on your car, it will tell you how fast the car can go, not how fast you should drive it. In Maryland, waste-to-energy ash is allowed as daily cover in a landfill rather than dirt, thus extending the life of the landfill by condensing the volume, thus eliminating dirt layers and getting full recycling credit for beneficial use. I look forward to finalizing details with the Frederick County Board of Commissioners regarding contracts and location. Michael D. Zimmer, Eldersburg. The writer is a member of the Carroll Board of County Commissioners.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced Oct. 10 the appointment of a new senior counsel responsible for climate change. Joseph Goffman, appointed senior counsel for global warming and air issues, was legislative director for Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I/D-Conn.) and was formerly on the environment committee staff when it drew up the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Goffman became legislative director for Lieberman, who chairs the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection, in 2005. He has more than 20 years of experience in environmental issues in the public and nonprofit sectors, and special expertise in climate and air pollution policy, according to the committee. He held senior policy positions at Environmental Defense Fund and the Environmental Protection Agency in the acid rain

program before joining Lieberman's staff, it said. He has a doctorate in law from Yale Law School, it said. *(Daily Environment Report 10/14/08)*

The federal government should place a moratorium on construction of new coal-fired power plants until carbon capture-and-storage technology is ready for deployment, the Union of Concerned Scientists said in a report issued Oct. 15. To speed deployment, the group called for the federal government to finance between five and 10 large-scale, integrated carbon capture-and-storage demonstration projects at coal-fired power plants using different types of generation and capture technologies and different types of sequestration sites. The report said the demonstration projects should be funded with a small fee paid by operators of coal-fired power plants, and later through revenues generated from the auction of allowances under a greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program. *(Daily Environment Report 10/16/08)*

During a German waste-to-energy event to be held at the Bremen Exhibition Center on December 10-11, representatives from environmental departments, municipal waste management officers, and industry specialists can obtain comprehensive information on sustainable waste disposal and production of bioenergy. Climate protection and energy efficiency constitute the key focus of the program which with more than 70 contributions invites critical discussion and exchange. The conference will start by asking what contribution energy recovery from waste and biomass can make towards climate protection. Representatives from waste management, energy production and politics will discuss this topic in the opening round. An international comparison will be drawn between neighboring European states and the USA, the partner country of “waste to energy” in 2008. In the lecture program experts from Germany and abroad will present scenarios for plant optimization, new recycling techniques and operational experiences. *(environmentalexperts.com 10/16/08)*

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

IWSA Annual Membership Meeting
Washington, DC
December 10-11, 2008

The 17th Annual North American Waste-to-Energy Conference (NAWTEC)
Chantilly, VA
May 18-20, 2009