

# THE HARRISBURG EXPERIENCE—SUCCESSFULLY OPERATING AN OLD FACILITY

**WILLIAM STRAUSS AND  
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City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

## Discussion by

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This paper is factual in content. However, technology and more experience in material handling have made the resource recovery facilities now coming on line more productive and economical. Perhaps if more automatic systems were installed, the operating costs could be further reduced. These automatic systems could be installed while the plant is running and then switched in when a convenient time occurs.

The ash disposal costs were not reflected in the operating budget. Have you addressed the ash issue if the EPA classifies MSW ash as "Hazardous"?

What provisions have been made when the ash fill is saturated?

I believe this report to be very encouraging for others in the solid waste/resource recovery fields. All too often the good news doesn't spread fast enough. This plant's operation should be exposed to everyone in the solid waste industry.

## Discussion by

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The paper presents, in an open and honest manner, the problems encountered during the initial years of operation, and brings up a generally known but unfortunately much too often covered up situation of inadequate support of a facility of this type by changing, politically motivated administrations, not only in Harrisburg but elsewhere as well.

In my opinion, the sludge codisposal system would have deserved greater attention. The history and experience with indirect steam sludge dryers and the switch to apparently off-site sludge dewatering would have given a more complete picture.

The present administration deserves credit for turning an orphan plant situation into a relative success story.