

INFORMAL WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 4, 2010

12:15 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George, Mary P. Stern, and Leslie Lewis.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Mike Brandt, Sherrie Mathison.

Guests: Jackie Lang & Paul Burns, Waste Management, Inc.; George Duvendack, Riverbend Landfill.

Subject: Alternative waste disposal technology

Kathy called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

Paul Burns stated that Waste Management has formed a partnership with InEnTec LLC to develop plasma arc gasification into a commercially viable technology, starting with a pilot plant in Arlington that will have a capacity of 25 tons per day. He said that the goal is to add this technology to the Riverbend facility on a larger scale, possibly within the next five years.

The group watched a video presentation detailing the plasma arc gasification process, which converts waste into an energy-rich gas and a dense, glassy, residual solid. Paul stated that one ton of garbage can be reduced to two cubic feet of this residual solid, which has useful applications such as roadbeds and countertops. He projected that in the near future, technology will have developed enough to convert the gas into liquid fuel.

The commissioners expressed support of the pilot program and Waste Management's efforts to develop new technology and promote waste reduction in order to minimize the need for landfills. Leslie noted that even if the plasma arc gasification technology can become commercially viable, it would not eliminate the need for the Riverbend Landfill by 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary