



NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 395 State Street | Ellsworth, ME 04605 | www.MRCMaine.org

ISSUE 2.1 | April 2016

78,000 Tons and Counting

70 towns and cities have committed to joining the MRC after 2018.*

Brewer, Bar Harbor, Hampden, Bangor, Trenton, Aroostook County Commissioners, St. Albans, Swans Island, Boothbay Region Refuse Disposal District (4 towns), Dexter, Corinna, Palmyra, Garland, Cranberry Isles, Mattawamkeag, Pleasant River Solid Waste Disposal District (6 towns), Central Penobscot Solid Waste (3 towns), Clifton, Dixmont, Thorndike, Brooks, Holden, Brownville, Guilford, Chester, Bradley, Oakland, Northern Katahdin Valley Solid Waste Disposal District (11 towns), Verona Island, Unity, Franklin, Montville, Burlington, Lowell, Exeter, Mariaville, South Thomaston, Albion, Searsmont, Troy, Orono, Lee, Freedom, Parkman, Springfield, China, Sherman, Cherryfield, Alton, Milo *As of April 20, 2016

The strength of the MRC's Plan for handling MSW in an affordable and environmentally friendly manner comes from our united membership.

Join us in a MSW disposal plan that is

CHEAPER. EASIER. CLEANER.

What's being said:

"We'll have power in numbers..." - Boothbay Region Refuse Disposal District Director Steve Lewis

"Our relationship isn't with Fibrigh; our relationship is with the MRC, and I feel that is the way it should be. They have done a really good job representing our interests," said Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee Chair Bob Butler

"The MRC plan was developed with the goal of long-term sustainability for its members and is comprehensive. It addresses our needs and concerns as a community and offers flexible options for the future." Brewer Mayor Bev Uhlenhake

"The Fibrigh proposal was the most economical option and the best for taxpayers and the environment." Tracy Frost Oakland Solid Waste Committee

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 27
MRC Finance Meeting: 9 AM
MRC Board Meeting: 10 AM
Orono Town Office
59 Main Street, Orono

To schedule an informational meeting in your town, contact Greg Louder at 664-1700 or glouder@mrmaine.org

TONS COMMITTED

150,000
Tons

Our goal

78,000
Tons

Committed so far

Join us in a MSW disposal plan that's
**CHEAPER.
EASIER.
CLEANER.**

In Case You Missed It: Cashing Out? Look Whose Cashing In!

The announcement from PERC's private partners of a contract with Casella Waste to receive up to 210,000 tons of commercial waste at the PERC plant in 2018 raises more questions than it answers.

- Where would this waste come from? Casella does not control that much commercial waste in this region or even in all of Maine.
- How could this contract help PERC stay afloat unless the contract tip fee is high enough for the PERC facility to stay viable after its \$20-million-per year subsidized power rate ends?
- Would Casella ever agree to contract with PERC to deliver waste at tip fees that are high enough to support PERC without subsidies? Today, Casella won't bring waste to PERC from outside the immediate area unless the tip fees are far below what the MRC towns are paying. Why would that change after 2018?

There is another explanation that is plausible, simple and easy to understand. We believe that Casella is actively working to undermine the MRC/Fiberight project in Hampden, and this latest announcement is just another part of their strategy. We believe that the 210,000 tons, if real, would be mostly municipal waste that Casella would try to control despite the state-mandated responsibility for management of waste generated within municipal borders.

If the MRC/Fiberight project goes forward, the towns benefit from a new facility with a stable tip fee that diverts waste away from landfill disposal, increases recycling rates and lifts the local economy. But what if the MRC/Fiberight project fails? PERC becomes the only option standing, allowing them to dictate the terms and pricing needed to run the plant in the absence of their subsidies. If, as we believe, they can't attract the waste at the tip fees they will need, and they run into a maintenance emergency or start missing payrolls, the result will be a crisis. Then, either tip fees will need to increase drastically to support plant costs or waste will be bypassed to Juniper Ridge Landfill—operated by none other than Casella.

Either way, municipalities and their taxpayers will be left to foot the bill while the out of state private corporations of USA Energy and Casella profit. And the costs will be paid not only by taxpayers, but by the environment and the regional economy.

We urge you to consider the true intent behind this announcement and to join us in standing up for the interests of municipalities. Let's avoid a manufactured waste management crisis that could cost municipalities and increase waste going to Juniper Ridge Landfill.

Permit Update

MRC and Fiberight submitted permitting applications to the DEP 10 months ago. According to our consultant, the DEP is in the final review stages before draft licenses are released. We expect those in the very near future.

On March 3, the MRC and Fiberight submitted an application to the Town of Hampden for the development of the proposed next generation recycling facility. The approximately 90 acre site is conveniently located off I-95 on the Coldbrook Road and is in Hampden's Industrial Zone. The Hampden Planning Board held a meeting on the application on Wednesday, April 13 and expects to consider it again on May 11.

Fiberight: Environmental and Economic Benefits

Some of our members have asked whether the Fiberight proposal makes the most environmental and economic sense for their community.

Compliance with the Solid Waste Hierarchy

Waste Reduction

Local control: Each town can continue existing programs or add new programs at its option.

Recycling:

Separate single-stream collection

Local control: Each town can continue existing programs or add new programs at its option. Towns can use any recycling facility at their option.

Recycling:

From MSW

Provides “second pass” at recyclables. Recovers metals, glass, plastics and high-value paper from MSW.

Composting and organics recovery:

From MSW

Converts carbohydrates to hydrocarbons via digestion of soluble organics and hydrolysis/digestion of a portion of insoluble organics (e.g., diapers, low-grade paper). Would comply with new legislative mandate if enacted.

Composting and organics recovery:

Organic materials collected separately

Not necessary. Avoids emissions from additional collection vehicles and avoids associated costs.

Energy recovery

Converts remaining insoluble organics to clean biomass fuel for sale and to produce electricity and heat to run the plant.

Landfill disposal

Only about 20% of incoming MSW requires landfill disposal in form of solid residue and some ash.

OVERALL

Moving Maine up the hierarchy.

Displacing Fossil Fuels and Reducing the Carbon Footprint

Fossil fuel displacement

Fiberight converts organic materials to bio-gas for injection into the Bangor Natural Gas Pipeline or sale as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicle fuel. Both uses directly displace natural gas from fossil sources. Fiberight uses some biomass extracted from organic material to produce electricity and process heat to run the facility – which is extremely efficient due to (a) the recovery of the waste heat for use in the plant; and (b) avoiding losses in the electric transmission and distribution systems by using the generated power at the point of generation without going on to the grid.

Economics and Voice

Tip fee

\$70.00/ton

Revenue sharing

Yes

Governance

Voting member, strong Board oversight and transparency.

What's Next?

Through Town Meeting season, the MRC is working with dozens of communities to approve the Joinder Agreement. Fiberight is also working with commercial haulers to further augment tons committed to the project. If your hauler has questions, please have them contact Fiberight at 1 (800) 728-9886 or email craigsp@fiberight.com.

Throughout the next quarter, MRC and Fiberight will be working toward the financial close of the agreement so construction can begin on schedule.

Sign-up Deadline Extended to June 30th

In response to requests from member communities, the MRC Board of Directors voted to extend the Municipal Joinder Agreement sign-up deadline from May 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

The Board moved the deadline in order to accommodate the large number of requests for in-person meetings and to allow municipalities time to make an informed decision. The Board feels it is important that the MRC remain a prompt and responsive advocate for members' questions, requests and information needs. While our information campaign was designed to deliver a mix of printed materials, digital presentations and in-person support, it has become evident that the need for in-person support has exceeded initial expectations. Between MRC's vast geographical service area and the limited amount of days and hours our volunteer Board has to serve, we have been challenged to meet the demand.

The extension will not affect towns that have already voted, because the change does not require an amendment to the Joinder Agreement. Nor will the extension affect the overall project schedule.

If your town holds its regularly scheduled Town Meeting after June 30, your town will still be eligible for the incentive benefits if it places the MRC article on the warrant and it is approved.

Familiar Face Joins MRC Board

Town of Mount Desert Public Works Director Tony Smith was reappointed to the MRC Board of Directors at their Special Board Meeting on Friday, April 15. Tony served on the MRC Board for three years and replaces Barbara Veilleux who stepped down.

ABOUT THE MRC

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is a non-profit association of Maine communities led by an elected, volunteer board of directors. For more than 25 years, the member communities of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC), now numbering more than 180 cities and towns, have used the PERC waste-to-energy incinerator in Orrington to process their municipal solid waste (MSW). After 2018, the contracts that made the PERC relationship work will expire and PERC will no longer be an economically viable option. The MRC has partnered with Fiberight to offer an innovative solution to recycle and process our MSW post 2018.

Visit www.mrcmaine.org or contact Greg Louder at 207-664-1700 or glouder@mrcmaine.org to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our e-mail contact list.



JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC regularly sends updates and announcements by email to those who have signed up for our alerts. We also

have active Facebook and Twitter accounts, and we've posted informative videos from recent meetings on our YouTube account. All of these are accessible from the homepage of our website, mrcmaine.org.