



NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 213 | Orono, ME 04473 | www.MRCMaine.org

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A Path Forward

by Michael Carroll, Executive Director

At the annual meeting, we came together to reflect on the past year's milestones and challenges and to present our focus for 2020 to improve the performance of the plant and to increase engagement with our members. For the last seven months I've been with the MRC, I've thought a lot about how fortunate we are that our members range from rural communities to Maine's third largest community, and we all have the same goals when it comes to processing municipal solid waste. We want it environmentally friendly, affordable, and for the future. We have that solution in Coastal Resources of Maine but we recognize that more needs to be done to make it reliable for all members and to divert more waste from landfills.



Members have expressed positive feedback but I have heard others' frustrations about plant operations. Whether it is a last-minute switch to bypass when the truck is at the facility or bypassing only for certain vehicles, I want you to know that I've heard you, and we can do better. Last month, I had the opportunity to hear directly from **Boothbay Region Refuse Disposal District Director**

Steve Lewis about his very valid concerns. We've come up with a path forward that should see more of that region's waste processed at Coastal Resources but I know that the situation is still not ideal.

Path to Optimal Performance

We are working closely with our partners to move forward with a plan to improve operations. The situation is moving fast, and I'll be at the Coastal Resources facility a lot more. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at execdirector@mrcmaine.org or at 664-1700.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 22, 2020

Finance Committee Mtg: 9 AM | Quarterly Board Mtg: 10 AM

First National Bank | Community Room
 145 Exchange Street, Bangor



All sanitation workers deserve the peace of mind to know that at the end of each day they will go home to their families.

On Thursday, January 9, Coastal Resources of Maine suffered mechanical damage to a key piece of equipment caused by a fire. The Hampden Fire Department acted quickly, and the fire was contained. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, but two Coastal Resources employees working in the area at the time of the incident were affected with one suffering minor injuries that required immediate medical attention. The root cause of the fire appears to be a propane tank that exploded during processing.

Hazardous Waste such as propane tanks, including camp stove canisters and the like, ARE NOT accepted at Coastal Resources. It is MRC Members' responsibility to educate their residents on what cannot be disposed of in household waste and recycling. Please post notices on your Municipal websites and social media pages. It is essential that we encourage our residents to properly dispose of all waste, so they do not risk injuring themselves or sanitation workers.

Setting the Record Straight

What does Commercial Operations mean?

We were very excited to share that Coastal Resources reached commercial operations in November 2019. It meant that the facility passed three rigorous tests called the Performance Test. That triggered commercial operations, which meant that the MRC's 15 year contract with Coastal Resources started. Coastal Resources is now responsible for waste logistics. This is part of the long path to operate the plant optimally.

The protocol for the test was agreed upon by the MRC, Coastal Resources and Fiberight as outlined in the Site Lease. The MRC wanted to witness that the facility could process 1200 tons of MSW over **three days**, process 45 tons over **three hours**, and **divert** over 50% of incoming MSW, and it needed to comply with the protocol. We were pleased to report that the facility exceeded of each of those goals.

While this is good news there is still more to be done to improve the facility's operations. The next round will be centered on reliability, capacity, and diversion.

THE RESULTS

	STANDARD	RESULT	COMMENTS
THREE-DAY TEST	1200 tons	1279 tons	Best day was 520 tons in one shift
THREE-HOUR TEST	135 tons	159 tons	Equivalent to 53 tons per hour
DIVERSION TEST	50.0%	54.1%	Working on improvements

Coastal Resources Disposal Tips and Tricks

Plastic bottles, milk jugs, and similar items that are thrown out in household trash, should have their plastic caps kept on and the containers should not be crushed. The sensors at Coastal Resources are able to better determine what is in the container in order to sort it to the appropriate spot for recycling.



Unacceptable Materials

Members are doing a great job of making sure that unacceptable waste like tires, mattresses and more are not making it to the plant. Coastal Resources is still receiving some of these items, however. The plant is currently assessing fees for some of these items. Please continue to make efforts to reduce the amount of unacceptable materials that end up at the plant.

Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to the Annual Meeting last month. We heard from three guest speakers from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Fiberight and Coastal Resources, and our lobbyist from Pierce Atwood. The presentations from the meeting are available on our website at www.mrcmaine.org.



Top photo: MRC board and guests; Bottom photos from left to right: David Burns, PE (DEP Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management Director); Steve Davey (Fiberight Global Holding / Coastal Resources of Maine CEO); Dan Walker (Preti)

Coastal Resources Permit Update

Coastal Resources continues to work with DEP to advance the issuance of the Beneficial Use permits necessary to market our cellulose pulp and engineered fuel products in the state. After investing nearly two months time for the sampling and analysis required to permit the products, Coastal Resources submitted the requested lab data to DEP in the middle of December. Shortly thereafter, the DEP notified Coastal Resources that the lab had not properly performed required protocols.

Consequently, a substantial amount of the data was found to be ineligible. This means that the sampling and analysis process must start over with another round of lab testing pushing our timeline to submit new results to DEP into early March.

This is a substantial blow to the facility and the Maine environment: market conditions make shipping the pulp and film briquettes long distances economically challenging, and since they cannot be beneficially used in-state until the permits are granted, these valuable materials must be landfilled. Coastal Resources is working with MRC to identify pathways to expedite the permitting process as well as end-users outside the state.

Legislative Update

by Dan Walker, Preti Flaherty

Relevant bills for this session include the following:

LD 401 – An Act to Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling. This bill was carried over from last session as a vehicle for the Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee to be able to pass any proposed solid waste legislation developed by the Committee and/or proposed by the DEP. The ENR Committee ultimately passed an amended version of LD 112, which updated to the

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definition of “bypass,” updated the policies for Juniper Ridge, and updated municipal reporting requirements. One provision that was removed from the bill would have limited the amount of processed MSW that could be used for alternative daily cover (ADC), by limiting the amount of ADC that could be counted toward a processing facility’s 50% recycling requirement. This provision and other DEP priorities will be discussed again beginning with a work session on January 17.

LD 1431 – Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs.

This resolve passed last session directed the DEP to develop a packaging producer stewardship program that would support the State’s MSW management programs. Over the fall, the DEP held a number of meetings with stakeholders. Part of the producer requirements will be to invest in waste reduction and recycling education and infrastructure. The DEP briefed the ENR Committee on the development of this stewardship program on January 8.

LD 988 – An Act to Reduce the Landfilling of MSW. This bill was carried over from last session and seeks to amend landfill fees by removing the exemption to the MSW disposal surcharge for MSW generated by a municipality that owns a landfill accepting it or that has entered into a contract with a term longer than nine months for disposal of MSW in that landfill facility. The bill was retained by the ENR Committee as a vehicle to potentially amend landfill fees and will be discussed in work session on January 17.

LD 1781 – An Act to Allow the Board of Environmental Protection to Make Changes Through Routine Technical Rulemaking to Federally Based Screening Levels for the Beneficial Use of Solid Waste. This bill is a vehicle for potential helpful beneficial use of solid waste policy changes. The public hearing was January 9.

Additionally, the Energy and Utilities Committee will be considering bills that could affect the new facility, including bills dealing with changes to the renewable portfolio standard and consumer choice.

Thank You, Dan McKay!

For 20 years Dan McKay, Esquire of Eaton Peabody has been the MRC’s trusted legal advisor and guided our organization through many transitions. He’s been a valuable resource for the organization throughout the years providing keen legal insight and brought clarity to complex matters that provided a sustainable/path forward. For his professionalism, guidance and thoughtfulness, we thank Dan McKay for his remarkable years of service.



ABOUT THE MRC The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is a non-profit association of Maine communities led by an elected, volunteer board of directors. 115 members have joined together to ensure the affordable, environmentally sound disposal of MSW in the long-term and send their MSW to the Coastal Resources facility in Hampden for processing.

Visit www.mrcmaine.org or contact Mike Carroll at 207-664-1700 or execdirector@mrcmaine.org to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our email contact list.

TOWN MEETINGS

Is Recycling and Trash a hot topic for your community? MRC Executive Director Mike Carroll is available to attend members’ town meetings to talk trash and recycling. If your community doesn’t have a town meeting, he is also able to present at a community meeting. Reach out for a time at **664-1700** or execdirector@mrcmaine.org.

CPI Increase

MRC received final approvals from Coastal Resources to send the 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase notification earlier this month. The tipping rate increase for members MSW is as follows:

- **Tip Fee in 2020 for Joining Members that were Charter Municipalities: \$71.44**
- **Tip Fee in 2020 for Joining Members that were not Charter Municipalities: \$73.65**