



NEWSLETTER

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

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MRC & Its Members Meeting the Challenge

By Executive Director Michael Carroll

To say the last several weeks have been challenging is an understatement. The MRC, however, has been up to the challenge—and so have our members. Each of you has been steadfast in your belief in our ultimate goal of achieving affordable, long term, and environmentally sound disposal of municipal solid waste.

For that we thank you. As we continue to engage with interested investors and operators, the fact that we have a base of 115 municipalities contracted as customers for the Coastal Resources of Maine (CRM) facility is of great importance. Your membership makes this investment all the more attractive to potential new partners.

We are vetting all proposals to find the best candidate to help us resume operations, and when we do, that information will be turned over to Coastal and its bondholder council for final negotiations.

As you know, the June 30th deadline for default notice MRC issued to CRM has passed, and MRC has chosen to continue to work with all parties to re-open the plant.

Prior to suspending operations, it was clear that the technology at CRM is not the issue. The plant had achieved over 60 percent diversion in May, and was working towards its 70 to 80 percent forecast of diversion materials. Quality pulp had been produced, and briquettes were ready for testing. Had the plant not been under capitalized and forced to close, it would have continued to do exactly what was envisioned. This, and the initial interest we have received from potential investors and operators, make us optimistic that we will be able to reopen CRM and return to state-of-the-art recycling and waste reduction.

To those of you who attended our most recent virtual town hall meeting, thank you. We'll be holding more of these to give you more opportunities to gain information and to ask questions.

Just as we weathered the fits and starts that preceded full operations at PERC more than 30 years ago, we will do the same with CRM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 22, 2020

Virtual Finance Committee and Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom

Keep an eye on the Upcoming Meetings Section of www.mrcmaine.org for registration information.



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.

ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

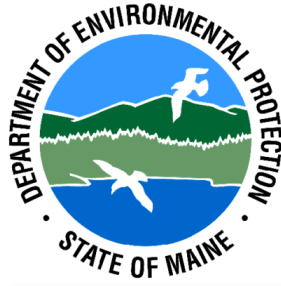


MRC regularly sends updates and announcements by email to those who have signed up for our alerts. We have active Facebook and Twitter accounts where we share articles and post about events and interact with members. Make sure to "like" or follow us through your town's accounts too! **Also, we're on YouTube!** You can watch our last two Virtual Town Hall Meetings on our YouTube channel (*Municipal Review Committee*) Please subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you don't miss any of our uploads!

MDEP Beneficial Use Permits Secured

There is good news to report from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP). The Beneficial Use permits needed to market our cellulose pulp and engineered fuel products within the state of Maine were secured in May.

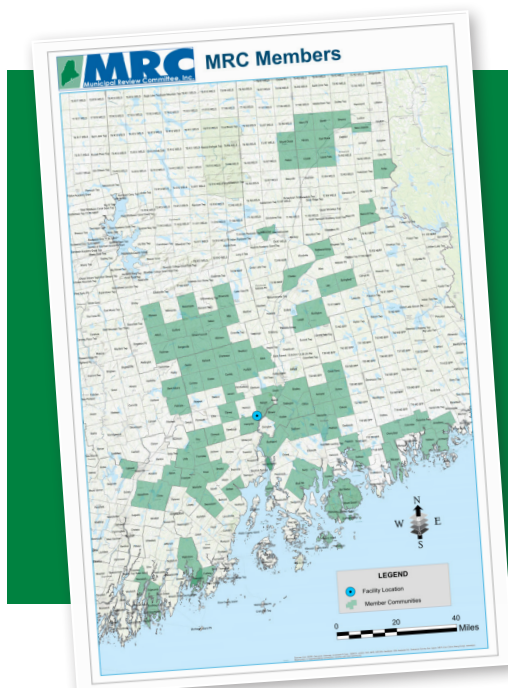
While the plant had been able to produce cellulose pulp and market it out of state, without the MDEP permits, the pulp could not be marketed within the state, nor could the briquets, which were made of compressed film plastics. Having the MDEP permits in hand, along with prospective buyers, also enhances the plant's viability in the eyes of potential investors.



MRC

Shout Outs...

...to the Maine DEP, The Town of Hampden, and especially the City of Bangor and officials at the wastewater treatment plant for their assistance in securing the plant for shutdown. All were extremely helpful in removing all waste and preserving the facility to keep permits and licenses valid, allowing for a minimum of delay in re-opening the plant. Also, **we're grateful to Waste Management for working with the MRC** to allow us to negotiate for a percentage of our members to divert their waste from the Crossroads landfill to PERC. (See PERC story)



MRC Negotiates Temporary Arrangement With PERC

We're pleased to report that MRC has agreed with Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) to redirect roughly three-quarters of the MRC members' MSW to PERC. The arrangement, which went into effect on July 1, 2020, is temporary and meant to ease the amount of bypass waste going into landfill. It's important to note that this agreement does not invalidate MRC members' contracts with MRC. All contracts are still in effect. All prices and tipping fees remain the same, and MRC will be invoicing members. It is important that members make their payments to the MRC.