



NEWSLETTER

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

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DTE Purchase of Hampden Facility

MRC Executive Director Michael Carroll has been hitting the road and attended several town council, select board and city council meetings over the past few months both in-person and virtually describing the status and the path forward to reopening the plant with Delta Thermo Energy, the buyer. To keep all members apprised of the latest regarding the sale, as of now, DTE reports that it is awaiting final documentation on the financing. The bondholders and the MRC need those documents to determine that there is sufficient capital to close this sale, and for DTE to be able to operate the plant going forward.

As we understand it, DTE is looking to negotiate a deal that benefits everyone, but there are hurdles. Because of this delay, we hope the closing will be in 30-60 days if the bondholder trustee is satisfied with the financing arrangements made by DTE. Even if we received all the papers tomorrow, the bondholders' legal team, as well as our own, still must review them. This is a multi-faceted, complicated process with a lot at stake for all of us. Once the bondholder trustee and the MRC are confident that DTE has the capital to open and operate the plant, the courts will need to approve the sale and the receiver will execute it.

Just a reminder that the MRC is not selling the plant. There have been conflicting media stories that have lacked context regarding this fact. The MRC has been working with the bondholders trustee and counsel on near constant basis to be informed about the status of the plant and its sale.

Our next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for July 28 at 10 AM following the Finance Committee meeting at 9 AM. This is our regular business meeting to provide updates on a range of topics. With that in mind, we have invited DTE CEO Rob Van Nardeen to a virtual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, August 5 at 11 AM to provide a focused update on the financing status and reopening the plant.

If there are any updates between now and our regular board meeting we will be sure to notify our members. Sign up for our Constant Contact emails if you haven't already. We appreciate your support and patience.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings Schedule for 2021

July 28
Finance Committee: 9 AM
Board Meeting: 10 AM
Location: TBD

August 5
Town Hall Meeting: 11 AM
Location: Zoom

October 27
Finance Committee: 9 AM
Board Meeting: 10 AM
Location: TBD



PLASTIC BAG BAN

As of July 1, 2021, Maine retailers are no longer allowed to give out single-use plastic bags or polystyrene foam disposable food containers in most cases.

Thank you Cathy Conlow!

We wanted to add our name to the list of many who are wishing Cathy Conlow well on her next role as the Executive Director of the Maine Municipal Association. Cathy has been an involved leader supporting our organization through difficult times in the past 11 years and all while remaining steadfast to our mission of affordable, environmentally sound disposal of MSW in the long-term. While she serves on the board from our largest member, she never forgot the importance of regional collaboration for members from all sizes while serving as a Board member. We thank you, Cathy for your commitment and leadership to the MRC and look forward to working with you in your new role at MMA!



Governor Mills signs Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill into law

The law's intention is to encourage producers to use more recycling material and more easily recyclable material by charging packaging producers for costs of disposing nonrecyclable packaging material. The fees collected would go to a Maine DEP contracted stewardship organization and used to fund local recycling and waste management initiatives. The devil is in the details though and the MRC will closely follow the rulemaking process at Maine DEP to provide comments on how the law will impact the Hampden plant operations under the new owner.



MRC at Waste Expo

Longtime MRC consultant George Aronson spoke at Waste360's 2021 Waste Expo on June 20 on the What's New with Mixed Waste panel. He brought national attention to the Hampden facility and outlined how and why we are at the stage we're at. The PowerPoint presentation is available on our website under our Document Library. Check it out if you have time!

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 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.

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