



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Thank you for your continued interest in the landfill gas to energy project. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) made the final determination to issue the air permit to construct effective January 12, 2012 allowing for the construction of the project to get underway. MDE's final determination to issue the permit to construct indicates that MDE is satisfied that there will be no adverse impact to public health or the environment.

There were two meetings associated with the permit to construct application. The first was an informational meeting that the County held on August 11, 2011 to provide the public with an opportunity to discuss the permit to construct application and review process. The second was a public hearing that MDE held on October 5, 2011 to receive public comment regarding the permit to construct application. The audience in attendance at the public hearing provided comments as well as many questions regarding the project. The public comment period regarding the permit to construct application ended on December 9, 2011 after a request for a 60-day extension.

MDE's final determination was released along with their response to comments received at the public hearing and through the comment period. Ahead of MDE's response to comments, the County issued a newsletter in November 2011 to answer questions from the public hearing.

The County held an informational night on December 19, 2011 to speak and answer questions about the landfill gas to energy project and landfill operations in general. At the informational night, public health experts from Cambridge Environmental were on hand to present air quality modeling they had performed at the County's request to evaluate the risk associated with the landfill gas to energy project. Cambridge Environmental also prepared two handouts to summarize their evaluation.

At the request of the public and to help address the continued concerns regarding air quality, the County hired a consultant to sample the emissions from the existing flare for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dioxins and furans. The landfill gas coming into the flare was also tested for VOCs and mercury. The consultant performed the sampling on January 17 and 19, 2012. A report regarding the results of the sampling is expected at the end of March 2012, and will be made available.

The County issued a project update on January 25, 2012 to respond to requests from the December 19, 2011 informational night, including continuous emissions monitoring, filtering and soil sampling.

Construction on the landfill gas to energy system is expected to begin in mid-February and is expected to be complete by midsummer. Prior to the completion of the project, the emissions from the generator will be tested for compliance with MDE requirements as well as dioxins, furans and VOCs. And those results will be made public, or available for those who would like to view them.

We appreciate the interest and input many of you put forth throughout this project, and assure you that the County and the state would not be moving forward with this project unless we were convinced that there will be no adverse impact to public health or the environment. See <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/LFGTE.htm> for the latest information.

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