Vol. 25, No. 2

www.scraptirenews.com

February 2011

Fighting Back

As numerous state agencies across the country find their scrap tire program activities-from market development to stockpile cleanups--crippled by lack of funds, many are seeing public and private sector stakeholders fighting back. Grassroots efforts in several state are leading movements to change how tire fund revenues are spent.

In Colorado, this has resulted in new law passed in 2010 that guarantees a dedicated use for the tire fee money. For Washington, which will lose 80 percent of its tire funding starting this year, its meant refocusing program priorities. In Georgia, a legislative battle led by advocates from public sector agencies, citizens and tire recycling industry stakeholders, is brewing.

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ReEnergy Holdings Acquires Connecticut Tires-to-Energy Facility

ReEnergy Holdings, LLC, A Latham, NY-based renewable energy company, has completed the acquisition of the Exeter Tires-to- Energy Facility located in Sterling CT. ReEnergy first announced its acquisition plans for the facility in November 2010.

The facility, renamed the Sterling Energy Facility was previously owned by CMS Enterprises, Jackson, MI, which built the plant in 1991. The 31 MW facility, continuously operated since 1991, is fueled with chipped and whole tires.



The Exeter Tires-to-Energy facility has operated continuously since 1991 doubling capacity and modernizing with a condensing water saver system in that time.

"Our acquisition of and subsequent investment in the Exeter Facility is consistent with ReEnergy's strategy of acquiring select energy assets that convert biomass and waste fuels into renewable energy," Larry Richardson, CEO of ReEnergy Holdings said.

The Exeter Facility has historically met the needs of a large number of tire collection and processing operations throughout the Northeast, ReEnergy's press release stated. "We look forward to serving these customers and expanding our customer base with even higher levels of reliability," Tom Beck, ReEnergy's Chief Commercial Officer said.

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EPA Given Only One Month To Issue New Boiler Rules

A federal District Court judge in Washington D.C. issued an order January 20 extending by only 30 days EPA's deadline to issue final Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rules, regulating emissions from industrial boilers. The proposed new rules include provisions that would change the definition of tire-derived fuel (TDF) from a "fuel" to solid waste and could impact plants that burn scrap tires as tire-derived fuel.

EPA voiced disappointment that the extension was not longer but said it "will work diligently to issue these standards by this new deadline". In December, EPA had petitioned the court for extra time asking for a six to 15-month extension saying it needed more time to evaluate the "overwhelming number of public comments" it had received since the proposed rules were released in April 2010.

"After receiving additional data through the extensive public comment period, EPA is requesting more time to develop these important rules," Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation said at the time EPA requested the rule

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