

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An affiliate of the Applicant currently operates an electric generation plant at the Central Landfill in Johnston which is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation ("RIRRC"). That plant captures the methane gas created as trash decomposes. The existing plant is located at two sites on RIRRC property. The first generates approximately 21 megawatts of electricity, and the second generates approximately 6 megawatts of electricity. The larger plant is in the precise area which RIRRC needs for the next phase of the landfill. Consequently, RIRRC and Applicant entered into a long term agreement whereby the Applicant would give up its existing rights to the plant in the path of landfill expansion, and would lease two sites one on either side of Shun Pike on land which is not necessary for landfill operations. The existing 6 megawatt plant will remain.

The project encompasses several components. First, there will be upgrades to the existing gas collection system which the Applicant will take over from RIRRC. Secondly, there will be a gas treatment plant on the lots on Assessor's Plat 43 to clean and purify the gas, principally removing sulfur from the gas. Thirdly, there will be a new combustion turbine combined cycle ("CTCC") electric generation plant built on the lots on Assessor's Plat 31. The landfill gas will power large turbines and the by-product of the turbine process produces an excess amount of heat which would feed steam-driven electric generators. Lastly, the electricity generated will be conveyed to the transmission grid by an interconnection loop on poles located within an easement granted to the Applicant by RIRRC.

The proposed project has significant economic benefits to the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Johnston. It will result in investment in Rhode Island of nearly \$80 million. It will save the RIRRC significant costs. There will also be significant payments in lieu of taxes made to the Town of Johnston. The Project has no subsidies whatsoever from the State of Rhode Island or the Town of Johnston. There will be 65 construction jobs and 18 to 20 permanent jobs. The applicant has committed to hiring qualified Johnston residents.

The new facility will have significant benefits to energy production in the State of Rhode Island. It will be the second largest landfill gas-to-energy plant in the country and will expand significantly the State's renewable energy infrastructure.

The project also will have significant environmental benefits. Capturing the landfill gases and turning them into electricity will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, because the alternative to this project would be a requirement to burn methane gas in flares. Creating renewable energy reduces the need to use fossil fuels for electricity production. In addition, the new gas cleanup system will remove impurities like sulfur from the gas which are currently being admitted into the atmosphere.

In short, this is a significant enhancement, economically and environmentally, of a use that already exists at the landfill.