

Plant System Expansion

“Getting more from alternative revenue sources”

Damon M. K. Taam

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

“Alternative Revenue Sources” are tipping fee revenues received from the combustion of non-traditional waste. Such alternative solid wastes are not hazardous wastes and are not typically delivered by the normal garbage collection system. Alternative Revenue Wastes (ARW) need a due diligence review showing that disposal of the waste will not violate any laws, ordinances and/or permit conditions. Disposal of ARW will need coordination and additional special handling for final disposal. ARW generators do pay a tipping fee greater than the solid waste tipping fee in order to compensate the owner/operator for the extra effort. ARW wastes are derived from the following special considerations:

- 1) Liability concerns from disposal of such waste.
- 2) Sensitive security
- 3) Legal/Regulatory compliance
- 4) Environmental concerns
- 5) Resource recovery
- 6) Infectious Wastes

Examples of ARW wastes:

- US Customs condemned/confiscated wastes;
- Petroleum contaminated wastes;
- Financial institution security wastes;
- Defective products; i.e. cereal toys, expired products
- Pharmaceutical, illegal drugs and the associated cleanups
- Defense Department security required wastes; i.e. weapons systems manuals and electronic media documentation.
- Antarctica Research Facility wastes;
- Contaminated food products
- Evidence disposal

A broker usually represents a waste generator. The broker coordinates the details of the disposal to achieve the generator’s desire for final disposal. The generator/broker desires assured combustion/destruction of its waste for various reasons. ARW wastes are packaged in various forms from bulk fiberglass to steel drums. Having the necessary on-site infrastructure to handle the ARW in a quick, cost-effective and reliable manner is the key to completing the transaction. Desirable facility infrastructure characteristics and equipment:

- Extended unloading floor - allows truck and manual loading of the crane grapple
- Belt conveyor from tipping floor to feed hopper
- Forklift
- Pallet jack
- Wheel Loader
- One stop contact person coordinator

ARW wastes are not typically budgeted as a revenue source and therefore no resources are allocated to develop it as a viable revenue element. ARW wastes have provided additional funds to address unforeseen and unanticipated expenses. Balancing a tight budget with supplemental revenues minimizes crippling cuts and/or personnel layoffs. Viewing these special needs wastes as a revenue resource and developing their marketing potential, the WTE industry will provide another invaluable service to our communities.