

Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of
Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)
Public Hearing
July 21, 2010
5:00 p.m.
Kapolei Hale Conference Room A

Presentation

1. Opening and Welcome

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on July 7, 2010 and on the City's Refuse Division website, www.opala.org

This public hearing is being held to comply with Conditions 15 and 16 of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS, certified on October 22, 2009, in Docket No. SP09-403 (the LUC Order), which states:

"15. The Honolulu City Council through the City Administration shall report to the public every three months on the efforts of the City Council and the City Administration in regard to the continued use of the WGSL, including any funding arrangements that are being considered by the City Council and the City Administration."

"16. The City Council and the City Administration shall have a public hearing every three months to report on the status of their efforts to either reduce or continue the use of the WGSL."

The complete LUC Order is available at the State Land Use Commission website: http://luc.state.hi.us/co_sphonolulu.htm

The following report covers developments during the last calendar quarter regarding the matters set forth in Conditions 15 and 16 of the LUC Order.

2. Progress Toward Another Landfill Site

A. Condition 4 of the LUC Order states:

"On or before November 1, 2010, the Applicant shall begin to identify and develop one or more new landfill sites that shall either replace or supplement the WGSL."

Department of Environmental Services (ENV) staff are in initial meetings with the selected consultant to develop a project strategy for the selection of another landfill site. A site selection committee will be convened.

- B. The following tonnage chart includes municipal solid waste (MSW), H-POWER ash and residue delivered to WGSL during the last three months.

April 2010	19,672 tons
May 2010	19,103 tons
June 2010	19,455 tons

There was one complaint relating to WGSL received from April through June 2010. This complaint was received on June 18, 2010 from Ken Williams with the Ko Olina Resort & Marina, and alleged foul odors, dust, and noise coming from the landfill. Joe Whelan, WMH General Manager, investigated as soon as the letter was received. Mr. Whelan toured the entire landfill, including the waste disposal area, but did not find any foul odors, or excessive dust or noise. Operations were located on the front face of the landfill at the time of the complaint, which would have made them more visible to Ko Olina residents. Mr. Whelan sent a follow up letter to Mr. Williams explaining his findings and what steps WMH takes to prevent negative impacts to landfill neighbors. Mr. Whelan also explained that operations on the front of the landfill were only temporary and would cease once the new landfill cells located in the rear of the property were completed.

C. Ongoing Projects

- The solid waste permit for the lateral expansion of WGSL was issued by the State Department of Health (DOH) on June 4, 2010.
- A Special Use Permit (SUP) application for the expansion of WGSL was approved with conditions by the City Planning Commission on July 31, 2009. The LUC approved the SUP with modifications, and included a condition that allows receipt of only H-POWER ash and residue at WGSL after July 31, 2012. The LUC Order is being appealed to Circuit Court by both ENV and the intervenors in the SUP proceeding.
- Excavation in the expansion area at WGSL is ongoing. This includes creation of new disposal cells and improvements to the west side facility drainage. The drainage improvements require a substantial amount of pipe, which is currently being stored onsite awaiting installation.

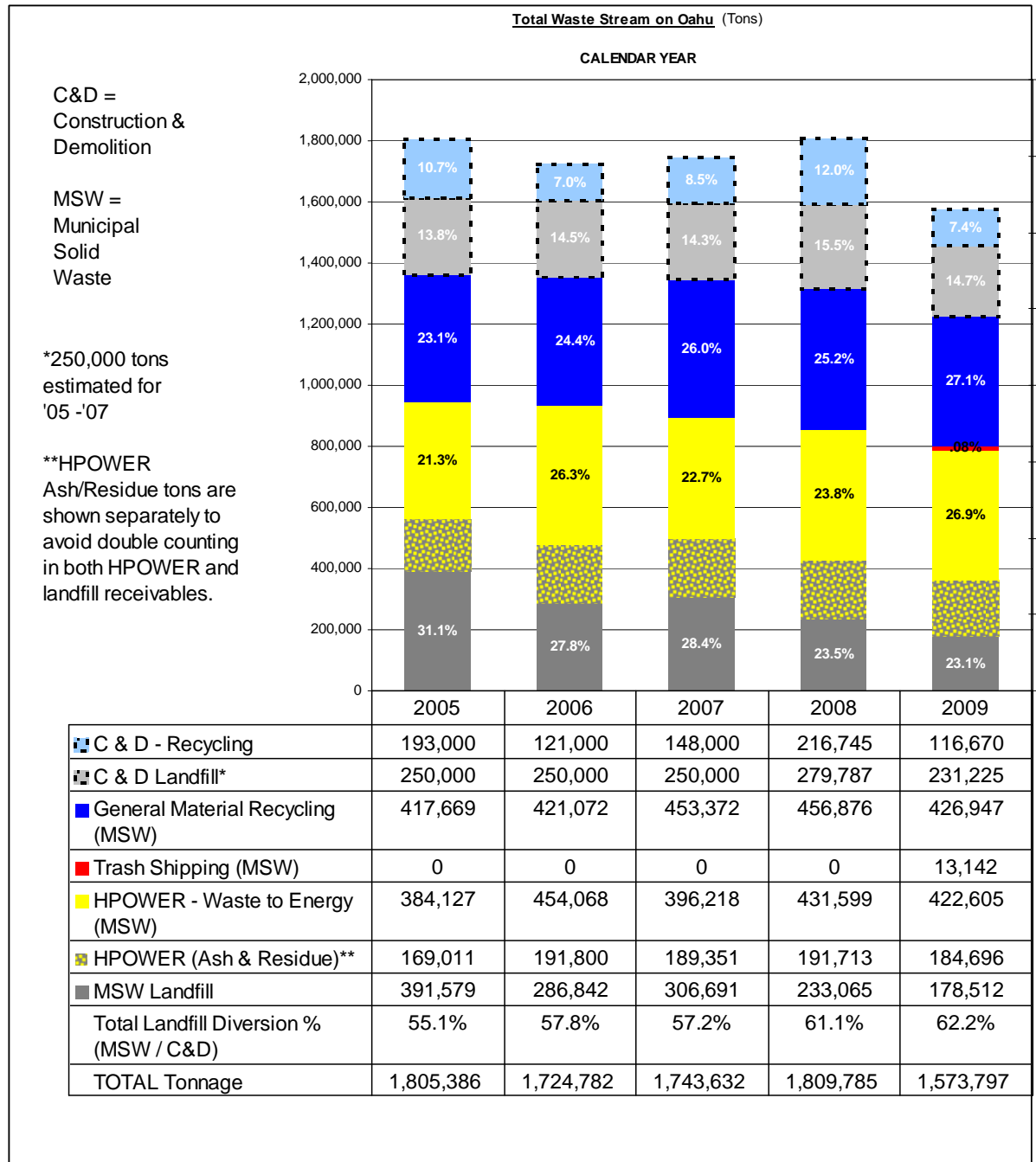
3. Progress Report on Diversion

A. The contract for the H-POWER expansion was executed on December 17, 2009. Covanta issued a Notice to Proceed (NTP) to their contractor on January 22, 2010. Construction has started and is estimated to be completed by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

B. Interim Off-Island Shipping of MSW

An NTP was issued to contractor Hawaiian Waste Systems (HWS) for September 25, 2009. Both parties agreed that delivery of MSW would start on September 28, 2009. Approximately 20,000 tons of baled and wrapped refuse are stockpiled. The majority of the bales are in 40-foot shipping containers. The City was asked to cease delivering waste on March 22, 2010. The Amended Compliance Agreement was issued on June 2, 2010.

C. Materials Recycling and Landfill Diversion



The data in the chart above shows how Oahu's waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and waste-to-energy. The general trend shows annual increases in recycling and waste-to-energy rates, and decreases in landfill disposal. In comparing the most recent years, 2008 and 2009, note that overall waste generation decreased significantly due to the down-turn in the economy. Total waste generation dropped from 1.8 million tons in 2008 to 1.575 million tons in 2009. Although recycling tonnages decreased, the recycling rate, or percentage of the total waste stream, increased from 25% in 2008 to 27% in 2009 for general material recycling (not including C&D recycling). And the total landfill diversion rate continued

to increase from 57% in 2006/2007 to 61% in 2008 and 62% in 2009. (National average is 44-46%)

The tables below provide detail of what was recycled per year and by material type. Note the upward trend of general material recycling from approximately 75,000 tons in 1988 to well over 400,000 tons today. Recycling of construction and demolition materials, such as concrete, rock and asphalt, has added between 100,000 and 200,000 tons to the recycling rates. These C&D recycling rates tend to fluctuate based on the volume and type of construction projects undertaken from year to year. C&D material is diverted from the WGS� to the private PVT landfill for disposal.

Year	General Material Recycling	C&D Recycling	Total Recycled
2009	426,947	116,670	543,617
2008	456,876	216,745	673,621
2007		148,952	602,234
2006		121,675	542,747
2005		193,829	611,498
2004	386,338	173,916	560,254
2003	366,639	106,773	473,412
2002	352,699	139,055	491,754
2001	367,300	114,070	481,370
2000	327,710	165,000	
1999	314,075	225,200	
1998	318,690	148,800	467,490
1997	313,394	204,400	517,794
1996	299,574	95,300	394,874
1995	294,340	44,400	338,740
1994	290,412	35,700	326,112
1993	241,600	30,000	271,600
1991	167,152	0	167,152
1988	73,992	0	73,992

Oahu Recycling 2009	
Material Type	Amount in tons
PAPER	
Corrugated Cardboard	41,945
Newspaper	15,053
Office Paper	14,224
Other Paper	1,043
METALS	
Ferrous (includes autos)	152,377
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	13,626
GLASS	21,306
PLASTIC	4,876
TIRES	10,277
AUTO BATTERIES	5,929
ELECTRONIC SCRAP	664
GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)	87,907
WOOD WASTE/PALLETS	16,185
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)	116,670
FOOD WASTE	25,736
SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)	-
OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)	15,777
TOTAL	543,617

Oahu Recycling 2008	
Material Type	Amount in tons
PAPER	
Corrugated Cardboard	34,249
Newspaper	13,905
Office Paper	13,301
Other Paper	1,124
METALS	
Ferrous (includes autos)	165,943
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	23,656
GLASS	25,050
PLASTIC	4,704
TIRES	10,200
AUTO BATTERIES	6,327
ELECTRONIC SCRAP	1,123
GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)	95,941
WOOD WASTE/PALLETS	13,526
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)	216,745
FOOD WASTE	29,933
SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)	-
OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)	15,831
TOTAL	673,621

The City's efforts to increase residential recycling have continued with the expansions of the islandwide curbside recycling program, community recycling bin program, condo recycling assistance programs and increases in budget commitments to support these efforts.

ENV completed the final phase expansion of the 3-cart curbside recycling program into the Leeward communities in May, 2010. There are currently 160,000 homes participating in the program. Once the program is fully implemented and has time to mature, the City estimates it will capture approximately 28,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 46,000 tons of green waste per year, a net gain of 53,000 tons per year over pre-curbside recycling program activity.

The City has maintained approximately 100 Community Recycling Bin sites on Oahu. The community recycling bins provide convenient drop-off to areas not serviced by curbside collection, for residents living in condos, and for the host schools.

The City continues to promote condominium recycling through a program that reimburses condominium properties for costs associated with the start-up of a recycling program.

State law requiring manufacturers to provide take back programs for electronic waste went into effect January 1, 2010. In these early months, the manufacturers' programs are not yet clearly defined, but the State Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that it expects the programs and consumer convenience to evolve as the new program matures. City ENV will continue to work in collaboration with DOH and local ewaste recycling companies.

Public education regarding recycling is ongoing--distribution of brochures and print materials, opala.org website, WasteLine e-newsletter and annual events including Tour de Trash and Discover Recycling. In October 2009, ENV and Oceanic Time Warner Cable launched "Opalavision" on the Green Channel at Oceanic 332 and online at opala.org. Short stories about the City's recycling initiatives and programs are featured in 3-minute episodes that educate and entertain. New episodes are produced monthly.

D. Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan

Funds are available to initiate the next update of the plan.

4. City Council Resolutions and Bills

The following resolutions were heard in the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee.

RESOLUTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
09-316	Install special bins for collection and eventual non-landfill disposal of electronic waste	Resolution adopted 7/14/10
09-345	City administration immediately initiate site selection process for new landfill	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
09-346	City administration select new site to be used exclusively for disposal of H-POWER ash and residue	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
10-4	City auditor conduct an audit relating to delays in shipping City's municipal solid waste to mainland	Resolution deferred in committee 3/2/10 No change
10-146	City administration promote Freecycle Honolulu	Resolution deferred in committee 5/25/10

The following bills were heard in the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee.

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
76 (2009)	Waimanalo Gulch Landfill close no later than July 31, 2012	Bill deferred in committee 12/01/09 No change

All resolutions and bills, and video of Council meetings, can be found at the City website, www.honolulu.gov

Public Comments:

Q: What will happen to the waste that is waiting to be shipped if it can't be shipped?

A: It will have to be disposed of through H-Power or the Landfill

Q: How is the ash from H-POWER disposed of?

A: Ash is disposed of in special cells within the landfill and will continue to be disposed of after July 31, 2012.

Q: Is there sufficient room for ash with the H-POWER expansion?

A: Yes

There being no further questions the meeting adjourned at 6PM.

Public attendees:

Edgar Miner

Lynn Yonemitsu

City Attendees:

Department of Environmental Services

Manuel S. Lanuevo, P.E., Deputy Director

Markus Owens, Public Information Officer

Wilma Namumnart, P.E., Assistant Chief Refuse Division

Wayne Hamada, P.E., Disposal Engineer

Suzanne Jones, Recycling Program Branch Chief

Department of the Corporation Counsel

Sharon Blanchard, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Other

Dee Dee Letts, Meeting Facilitator

Joe Whelan, General Manager, Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc.