Construction work at the solar project adjacent to the Ballenger-McKinney Wastewater Treatment plant in Frederick, MD is progressing. Ameresco, the project contractor, has been installing panels and the battery energy storage system (BESS). Through the cold and precipitation of late December and early 2020, the installation team continued to set manholes, finish conduit installation, pull wire and connect to the switchgear at the Influent Pump Station.

Current plans have the mechanical completion in late February, with startup testing and utility approvals taking place in late February and early March of 2020.

EA Engineering provides ongoing engineering support for the project and The Authority submits project progress updates to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

For more information, please see the Fall 2018, Winter 2019 and Fall 2019 editions of WasteWatch. 

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FREDERICK SOLAR PROJECT STEADILY MOVES TO COMPLETION (CONTINUED)

1. BESS Pad with conduit stub-ups before concrete pour. (12.20.19)

2. BESS Pad with conduit stub-ups after concrete pour. (01.03.2020)

3. Side view of the solar array, showing the inverter, cabling, and mow strips in forms. (01.10.2020)

4. Manhole showing the cabling (medium voltage power and communications). (01.10.2020)
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) since 2014, retired from the City in February. Director Chow was named and recognized as a Top Ten Leader in the industry by the American Public Works Association (Spring 2019 edition of WasteWatch). In announcing Mr. Chow’s retirement, the City praised the strong, innovative financial management and capital investment plans he put in place, the plan he implemented to enhance the responsiveness and accountability of DPW to the City’s neighborhoods and his many other programs that contributed to making Baltimore City cleaner.

Mr. Chow served on the Authority’s Board since the beginning of his appointment as DPW Director. During his time on the Board, he participated in numerous projects and programs. Authority Executive Director Chris Skaggs noted that the Authority will miss his dedication and willingness to share his knowledge and experience. His efforts are also recognized and appreciated by the Members and staff of the Authority as an important contribution to the success of solid waste management in the region.
Every year the Authority conducts an annual site visit of the King George County Landfill, located in Virginia. The annual visit helps the Authority and Member Jurisdictions inspect the landfill, review operations and discuss regulatory compliance. This annual tour, which is stipulated in the Service Agreement between the Authority and Waste Management on behalf of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, took place on November 19, 2019. The tour was conducted by David Howard, site manager for Waste Management. Representatives from the Authority, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties participated.

The Authority contracts with Waste Management for the acceptance, transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste delivered by Anne Arundel and Howard Counties to the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station in Jessup, Maryland. Annapolis Junction then sends the waste by rail to the King George Landfill. The entire site is 685 acres, of which 292 acres will be developed as landfill. It has been in operation since 1996 and annually receives 7,000 - 10,000 tons per day on average, with approximately 2,500 tons per day coming in by rail from the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station. The King George Landfill’s life expectancy is estimated to last until 2045. There are currently two cells left to develop.

Landfill gas from the site is collected, through 330 wells across the landfill, and is then sent to the landfill gas-to-energy facility which utilizes four turbines to generate and export approximately 9.5 megawatts of electricity to the local electric distribution system or grid, in addition to powering the buildings located on-site. Another turbine is being considered. The turbines consume an estimated 6,000 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm, an industry standard for the measurement of gas flow) of landfill gas total, which can vary due to gas quality and ambient temperatures. The excess gas, about 1,500 scfm extra, is burned in one of three on-site flares.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ENGINEER SELECTED FOR GUDE LANDFILL REMEDIATION PROJECT

The Authority awarded SCS Engineers the Construction Management Engineer contract for the remediation of the closed Gude Landfill in Montgomery County, MD on January 7. This is the second of three contracts for the remediation project that will be managed by the Authority in support of the County. The Authority and the County have been working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) under a Consent Order agreement to address certain concerns and potential impacts at the Gude Landfill. They have developed Requests for Proposals (RFP’s) for two of the three separate contracts to implement remediation improvements and for the conceptual development of potential land uses at the Landfill to date.

Contract 1 – Design Engineer (awarded in 2018 and on-going): is responsible for the design, permitting and other designated services for the Corrective Measures and the conceptual planning for potential land uses. The Authority is managing EA Engineering for the work under this contract.

Contract 2 – Construction Management Engineer (this contract): will be responsible for constructability reviews of the design/construction documents as well as providing management, oversight and inspection services throughout the construction of the Corrective Measures, and potential site work to prepare for the potential land uses. The Authority is managing SCS Engineers for the work under this contract.

Contract 3 – General Contractor (future contract): will be responsible for the actual construction of the approved design and permitted Corrective Measures and any potential land uses.

Proposals for Contract 2 were requested from engineering firms or engineering teams qualified to provide construction management, construction inspection and support services for the construction of the MDE-approved Corrective Measures. The RFP and adjoining contract required that the selected firm meet the County’s Minority, Female, and Disabled-Owned Businesses (MFD) Program and living wage requirements. (For more information on the design of the remediation project please see Winter 2018 edition of WasteWatch).

The evaluation committee identified SCS Engineers as the preferred firm. SCS Engineers will also meet the required MFD component of the project, which at the time of the procurement was a minimum 17 percent commitment. The remediation design currently is at the 60 percent design phase and has included planned stakeholder involvement with County and State regulatory bodies, other Montgomery County agencies and the neighboring community of Derwood Station.

The schedule for the design project has been updated to show start of construction in FY21 and related redesign for the project. For more information please contact the Authority or visit the County hosted project website at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/facilities/gude/remediation-project.html.
Cathy Coble, Director of Finance and Administration, retired in December after 40 years with the Authority. She was the Authority’s first employee in 1980. As Director of Finance and Administration, Cathy participated in the development of eleven facilities, the Authority’s regional procurements, and a comprehensive range of other projects and services provided to Member Jurisdictions. Additionally, in her four decades of service to the Authority, she oversaw and managed the issuance of 17 bond financings. Cathy was an integral and respected member of the Authority’s staff. Her experience and counsel will be missed.

Many of Cathy’s responsibilities will be taken on by Kimberly W. Gordon, Esq. who has worked for the Authority part time as contracts counsel. Kim’s new title is Director of Administration and Contracts.

Traci Baker will be assuming some of Cathy’s other responsibilities and has been promoted with a new title of Accounting Manager.

In mid-2019 Katherine “Kitty” McIlroy, in recognition of her significant contributions to the Authority, was promoted to Project Manager.

Soncie Johnson, Administrative Assistant for 21 years with the Authority retired at the end of 2019.

Sabrina Ross is now the Authority’s new Administrative Assistant. Sabrina comes to the Authority from MIEMSS, where she helped support the Emergency Communications Department as an Administrative Aide. She began her career with the State of Maryland as a Sr. Buyers Clerk for the Construction Procurement Department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Sabrina finds joy in being able to help others and organize the many workings of the environment in which she works. She is the mom of a curious and energetic 1-year-old son. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, cooking and decorating.

Cathy Coble Kimberly W. Gordon, Esq. Traci Baker Sabrina Ross