1. Call-to-Order, Introductions, and Agenda Review
The meeting was called to order by Ken at 08:45. Introductions were made of all present by Ken. Mark provided a summary introduction to the facility. Introductions were made of all present. To view the agenda, click here.
2. Financial
The balance as of 8/31/01 is as follows:
Main Committee. Account #404-36-5027 $99,104.29
Hazardous Waste Account #404-36-5029 $54,664.16

Expenses from REMAP2 have not been identified as being expensed. Details will be available later.

3. Previous Meeting Minutes Approval
Notice will be sent by e-mail for approval of the last meeting minutes.

4. Communications
Norma has sent up the web site but it is lower in the organization. The previous meeting minutes are located on the site for future viewing.

Carolyn Davis, ASME's Director of Research resigned as of 24 August.

KC Lee has provided new information on his location. Several committee members expressed their regret for late cancellations.

Inquiry came from an individual in India requesting information on the definition of Pith gas. This request was forwarded to all members. Several responses were provided by members of the committee. Ken congratulated the members who responded to the e-mail and forwarded these responses to all members.

Herb provided a summary on the Canadian editorial in response to the 11 September 2001 incident. A copy is attached to the meeting minutes.

A project is currently being put together by some people in Pennsylvania to utilize low quality culm (residue from hard coal plants whereas GOB is the soft coal residue), and extract the energy. This group has gone to the State to request money for the project. A discussion on the coal waste application to gassify the culm piles in the area. SASOL has many plants in the area doing the activity. DOE has committed money to the project. Sy Friedrich will be questioned as to how the committee can assist DOE on the project. Some newspaper documents are attached: Article from Reading Eagle written by Don Spatz. Article by Bill Uhrich (also from the Reading Eagle).

5. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Carpet Recycling - Realff
A summary report supplied by e-mail was supplied This is attached. A general discussion of the potential of carpet recovery through energy recovery, latex recovery, and other items that could be performed in the materials. RWS does not have a problem with the residential disposal of carpets in the unit.
b. Reference Method Accuracy and Precision (ReMAP) - Hoecke/Bastian
The report has been issued. All members have received a copy. Additional copies are available from the Washington office. This report was well received by EPA.

Two years ago a memorandum of understanding between DOE and EPA on mixed waste management was initiated. The mixed waste facilities generated many wastes that would be applicable to the REMAP conclusions. HEPA filter monitoring project is currently being developed which has a particulate matter CEM. This is held in abeyance due to the lack of instruments. EPA is currently close to initiating the particulate CEM. The performance standard PM-11 (gravimetric) is not applicable.

There will be a complete testing of the HEPA exit stream. This will be performed in the spring. There are many concerns about the accuracy of the methods at this particulate level. There may be data from this activity that would be available for ASME to expand the REMAP study in the Method 5 and 5i area.

The question of future regulations on the mass or particulate density and their impact on the future regulatory areas is of concern.

There is an opportunity for the committee to review the data or organize the review of the data. The method of organizing the future activity is to be discussed.

c. Mass Flowmeter Accuracy - Hayden (Licata)/Hasselriis
Jeff Harrington provided overview of the report that was previously provided at the Washington meeting 20 Feb 01. A detailed discussion of the measurement procedures and manner that the data will be utilized.

Some detailed comments were provided by Floyd. Floyd will combine the comments for transmittal to Jeff as the lead of the study.

d. Landfill Emissions - Clarke/Hasselriis
No report

e. Animal Waste - Waggoner
Nothing new to report

f. ReMap CH2O - Hasselriis/Corwin
A meeting was held in Washington in 23 August with additional manufactures. The meeting minutes will be issued shortly. A project scope with costing estimates and the instrumentation that would be tested. The meeting minutes are to be released shortly. A project scope and outline is to be developed and forwarded to all members of the sub-committee for review. Test method definition is being reviewed. Additional potential sponsors and participants are being contacted.

g. Business Plan- Trenholm
No report

6. Other Business
Alan Moghissi asked by Jack Lloyd to look into the establishment of an Environmental Institute. Research. ASME is apparently reviewing its structure. The establishment of institutes is one of the alternatives. A review of the possible implications to RCIMW of this change is status was briefly reviewed. No conclusion was obtained at this meeting.

7. New Business
Future of the committee.

8. Future Meeting Schedule
December 6, 2001 - US EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC

9. Special Presentation
Joe Kazar and Dan Bresgere - Mid-Maine Waste, Auburn, ME
Mark Arienti - RWS, Portland, ME

10. Adjournment

11. RWS Plant Tour
Plan to use coal waste draws gripes

Build it, and they will gripe.

John Rich Jr. wants to build a $312 million coal liquefaction plant near Frackville. Essentially, the plant will turn waste coal in culm banks littering the region into diesel fuel.

The way Rich tells it, he can simultaneously help clean up the region, provide jobs and use Pennsylvania litter — junk coal — to help end our dependence on OPEC.

But look out. Here come the gripers.

They don’t like the tax credits Rich has gotten from the state and is seeking from the federal government to build the plant. Corporate welfare, or wealth-fare, they call it.

They don’t like the Keystone Opportunity Zones, the tax-free areas by which the state and local municipalities hope to attract new industries.

They don’t like the partner he’s using — Sasol Ltd., of South Africa, which has been using the technology for more than 20 years. They point out Sasol acknowledges its processes add to environmental pollution.

They don’t like Rich, heir to a fortune from the family coal business they say polluted the region in the first place, and which still has rusting facilities it wants the government to clean up.

They don’t like the fact that Rich and his family contributed more than $17,000 just last year to political candidates ($12,500 to U.S. Rep. Tim Holden, a Schuylkill County Democrat who also represents Berks) and the Republican Party.

And they just don’t like coal.

“This experimental project would increase environmentally destructive coal mining,” claims the Web site of one of the objecting groups, www.ultradirtyfuels.com (that’s a takeoff from Rich’s own Web site, www.ultracleanfuels.com).

In all of this, however, there doesn’t seem to be any debate over the technology. Sasol has been turning junk coal for decades into transportation fuel, supplying nearly half of South Africa’s liquid fuels.

Actually, the coal could be used to produce any kind of fuel — a Penn State professor has been making jet fuel of it for 10 years (and yes, another group is protesting the Energy Department grants subsidizing his work).

Rich plans to make zero-sulfur diesel fuel, because there will be a market for it in 2003 when new federal standards take effect.

And Rich says there will be no emissions — no sulfur dioxide, no nitrogen oxide pollutants — coming from the Frackville plant.

Going in the front end would be up to 3,400 tons of waste coal a day.

Coming out the back end daily would be 5,080 barrels of diesel fuel that Texaco has agreed to buy; 49 megawatts of electricity made from leftover steam; packages of solid yellow sulfur cleaned from the coal; and 991 tons of vitrified solids, the culm leftovers that look like crushed brown glass and are usable anywhere.

Economically, the plant would create 150 permanent jobs and 600 spinoff jobs.

The gripers’ gripes may influence the process. Watchdogs may keep the plant (and the money) cleaner than otherwise expected.

But that’s not what they want. They want the project killed.

How do they propose the United States end its dependence on the whims of OPEC? They don’t. They do suggest we use less energy, or “move toward truly clean, renewable technologies,” but the truly clean renewable technologies we have today barely provide enough electricity to run their Web sites.
Until then we're either stuck with OPEC — that wonderful friend of America and the environment — or trying some new technologies. I vote for the latter.

You can contact reporter Don Spatz at 610-371-5027 or dspatz@readingeagle.com.
Bill Uhrich

Where will the money go in coal deal?

Once again, we all need to step back and take a deep breath, while the air is still clean enough.

A few Sundays ago the Reading Eagle published a front-page paean to the highly flawed Bush administration energy proposal, which soon faces a Senate vote.

Allow me to rebut what you read.

The stories detailed the quest of Schuylkill County businessman John W. Rich Jr., whose Gilberton-based Waste Management and Processors Inc. will seek $87 million in tax breaks and incentives under the energy plan to go along with the $47 million in state tax credits and a previous $7.6 million Department of Energy subsidy he already has acquired.

Rich plans to build a $300 million culm-burning plant that will convert waste coal into diesel fuel, using technology developed by the Germans during World War II.

He claims that if the energy bill becomes law, Schuylkill could benefit by the creation of 1,000 construction jobs, 150 permanent operating jobs and 600 spinoff jobs from his facility.

Berks-based Parsons Energy & Chemicals Group officials touted that the bill could add 300 jobs to their firm.

And Vice President Dick Cheney has a bridge in Brooklyn he’ll reassemble across the Schuylkill River in Reading.

First, let’s look at the politics.

The state Republicans are currently plotting to carve up the Sixth Congressional District, which includes Berks and Schuylkill, in their redistricting scheme to isolate the incumbent, Democrat Tim Holden.

Holden voted for the energy bill, claiming benefits to the coal industry.

Please raise your hand if you think Cheney will dump $87 million into a district where Holden can take credit for it, while at the same time the Republicans are working to defeat him and maintain their slim majority in the House.

If Cheney holds out, any Republican opponent of Holden in 2002 could position himself as being better able to steer energy bill funds to the district.

Holden may yet regret that he voted for the bill.
Rich may think he has hedged his bets by contributing more than $13,000 in campaign funds to Republicans and $4,000 to Holden.

But that’s chump change compared to the $900,000 contributed to Republicans by Peabody Energy — the world’s largest coal producer, its employees and affiliates.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that the Peabody chief executive personally gave $100,000 to Bush’s inaugural committee.

The *Times* also reports that Peabody officials were among the insiders who met with the energy task force.

Please raise your hand again if you think you know where the coal money in the energy bill will go.

Now let’s look at the technology.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported last year on the many failed attempts to build new plants that incorporate clean-coal technology, citing "high design and construction costs, technology problems, shaky investor confidence and risky business plans."

The *Inquirer* detailed the efforts of Lakeland, Fla., where the Department of Energy invested millions of dollars in what in 1996 it called "the world’s most advanced coal combustion power plant."

The city gave up on the plant in 1999 after the price rose from $300 million (is that a familiar number?) to $450 million.

The *Inquirer* also pointed out that Calvert City, Ky., and Des Moines, Iowa, had also planned to build such plants with 50 percent federal funding, but both threw in the towel after "the builder of a key component also refused to guarantee that it would ever work."

The manager of the Lakeland project said, "It’s just kind of out of touch with reality."

Amen.

- You can contact Bill Uhrich at 610-371-5090 or e-mail buhrich@readingeagle.com.