



WASTE MATTERS!

Volume 1 Issue 1 November 2017

Welcome Back!!

We are thrilled to introduce, **WASTE MATTERS!** This publication is a continuation of **Tank Talk**, a periodic newsletter originating from the Office of Waste Management that shares relevant information on important topics.



Since We've Been Gone.....

A lot has happened since we've been gone. For one, the *DEM Brownfield & Site Remediation Team* was recognized as a recipient of the 2017 Executive Branch Employee Recognition Award for Customer Service. This award celebrates individuals or teams of employees who render exceptional service, exceed expectations and provide customers with comprehensive, satisfactory and positive experiences. Flip the page for more successes in RI...



Above: Recipients of the 2017 Executive Branch Recognition Award for Customer Service. More photos on page 4

Single-Wall Underground Storage Tank System Removal Deadline Approaching Fast!!!

By: Joe Cunningham

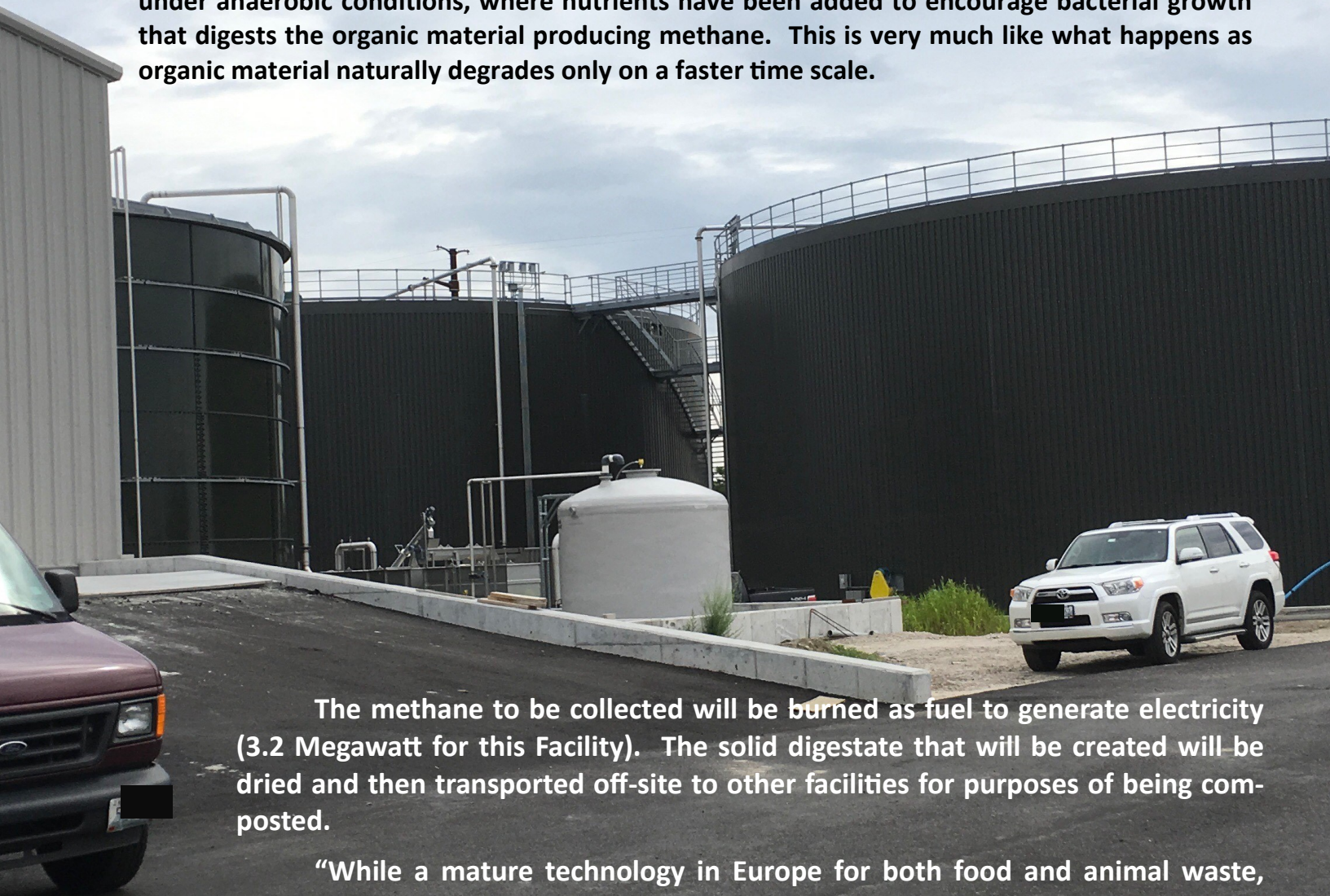
The deadline to remove and permanently close single-wall underground tanks and single-wall product piping is approaching rapidly! As required by DEM Regulations and Rhode Island General Law, all single-walled underground storage tanks and single-wall product piping used for gasoline, diesel, kerosene, heating oil intended for distribution, and other motor fuels are required to be removed and permanently closed based upon their installation date.

.....See *Deadline* on pg. 6

A Healthy Way to Digest

Story By: Chris Shafer and Mark Dennen

The Orbit Energy Anaerobic Digestion Facility, located in Johnston, is now accepting liquid food waste. The Anaerobic Digester will be able to accept up to 200 tons per day of food waste (liquids and solids), making it one of the largest food waste digesters operating in New England, once it eventually starts accepting solid food waste. The solid food waste will be ground up, hydrated and pumped into one of two 250,000 gallon tanks. It will then be kept under anaerobic conditions, where nutrients have been added to encourage bacterial growth that digests the organic material producing methane. This is very much like what happens as organic material naturally degrades only on a faster time scale.



The methane to be collected will be burned as fuel to generate electricity (3.2 Megawatt for this Facility). The solid digestate that will be created will be dried and then transported off-site to other facilities for purposes of being composted.

“While a mature technology in Europe for both food and animal waste, food waste anaerobic digesters are relatively new to the United States,” stated Chris Shafer. Both the 2016 Food Waste Ban (R.I. General Law 23-19.9-17) and the DEM Office of Waste Management’s new Anaerobic Digester Rules and Regulations (in Solid Waste Regulation #8) are intended to encourage diversion of food waste from landfilling. This technology has the added benefit of creating clean electricity while reducing emission of methane, a greenhouse gas, into the environment. For more information, contact Chris Shafer at Christopher.shafer@dem.ri.gov.

Over \$6 Million Available To Clean Up & Redevelop Brownfields Sites Throughout Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE - The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) – in partnership with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank – announced new funding opportunities to support the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties, known as brownfields, across the state. “In all, over \$6 million is available,” stated Leo Hellested, Chief of Office of Waste Management at the public workshop held at DEM on November 1st. Funded projects will support a healthier environment and economy, create jobs, and promote renewable energy uses at these locations. This program is a “win-win” for the environment and the economy.

Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund - \$5 Million

A Request for Proposals was issued on October 10th – with a deadline of December 1, 2017 – for a new round of matching grants under the State’s Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund. Redevelopment of brownfields – which are vestiges of Rhode Island’s industrial heritage and number in the thousands across the state – may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. This Fund, created under the 2014 Clean Water, Open Space, and Healthy Communities Bond, helps communities and private organizations accelerate cleanup efforts and promote smart growth. Up to \$2 million will be awarded to projects that promote renewable energy uses.

More on pg. 6

from DEVASTATION to SENSATION



From the looks of the pictures to the left, it was highly unimaginable that this would become the future site of a state-of-the-art middle school campus where countless minds are molded into greatness daily. But with the collaboration of many, that’s exactly what happened in the City of Woonsocket.

First, a little background on the project and site: Prior to January 2010, the City of Woonsocket operated only one middle school

for all children in the City. Built in 1915, the former site was recognized as the largest middle school in New England. It’s population, a healthy 1,600 middle school-aged children, crammed into either 6th, 7th, or 8th grade

.....See ***Sensation*** on next pg.



A sneak peek into what this site looks like today

rather uncomfortably. Unfortunately, this building was lacking tremendously in many of the qualities both the City and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) deemed necessary to be a suitable educational center. Eventually, a new building was identified as a top priority; although lack of existing buildable sites and some economic constraints became the first struggle.

In 2006, with the help of Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment Grants, Targeted Brownfield Assessment Grant Funding provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of RI Department of Environmental Management, a preferred site was identified by a group of project stakeholders after significant input from the community and public. On paper, this new site was perfect - roughly 20 acres, a central location within the city, strategic bus route access and numerous other positive aspects. However, in reality, this site was a colossal undertaking with merely a miraculous hope of completion within the city's financial constraints and the stringent 2-year window deadline .

The entire 20 acre property had an over 100-year history of textile, metal working and printing industrial operations within seven large-scale, multi-story mill structures. Furthermore, the area had been the scene of two considerable mill fires in 2003 and 2006 which destroyed three large structures and additionally reduced the environmental quality of the site and its surrounding natural resources. The property was said to contain significant amounts of hazardous materials namely asbestos, ash, PCBs, mercury, lead pain, containers full of liquid wastes, chlorinated solvents, anthrax and more. Multiple regulatory approvals were necessary to address the vast issues that were unearthed upon initiation of the project in order to ensure this site met the stringent clean-up requirements imposed by DEM that ensures the students' safety. With such numerous concerns, where and how would one begin this massive development?to be continued

Stay tuned to our next issue for the astonishing conclusion to this story and to view pictures of the remarkable transformation to this site.

More photos from the 2017 Executive Branch Employee Recognition Award for Customer Service.

Below: the DEM Brownfield & Site Remediation Team



Above L to R: C. DiPietro, J. Lautman, A. Blauvelt, N. Noons, J. Crawford and Gov. Raimondo





Left: DEM's Shawn Lowry and the Burrillville Police Dept help stock boxes of water for Burrillville residents.



Right: DEM's Nick Noons assisting a Burrillville resident with her case of water.

Burrillville Residents Provided Bottled Water By RIDEM After Contaminants Found

A public well managed by the Oakland Association tested positive in September for slightly elevated levels of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are man-made chemicals found in items such as non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing, and some fire fighting foams. Some studies have also linked the compounds to health problems, including some types of cancer. Upon finding this out the RIDEM OWM team immediately provided bottled water to the 35 affected households and tested 53 private wells within a quarter mile radius of the public well. "That effort was spearheaded by Deputy Chief Matt Destefano," stated Leo Hellested, "with the enthusiastic support of new staff Nick Noons, Shawn Lowry, Kirsten Bailey, Rachel Simpson as well as OWM veteran Paul Kulpa. They did a fantastic job coordinating with local officials, DOH, and police to assist that community. Although the source of the contamination is still unknown, DEM will be taking soil and groundwater samples around the Oakland Association's public well to find out from where the chemicals are originating. OWM staff will be in the field collecting this additional data in the coming weeks.

WASTE SCRAMBLER

See if you can unscramble these words. Hint: All words are found in this publication.

1. winbolfred stangr _____
2. aeutdrrgnw gpnlsmia _____
3. bancreioa iredstedg _____
4. egoddrnnuu kants _____
5. mostcure icevers _____
6. Vdmpteeeroln _____

Answers on last page

Brownfields.....Cont'd from pg 3

To date, \$5 million has been awarded under the Fund, supporting 23 projects in 10 communities. These grants, which leveraged over \$575 million in other investment and support some 4,000 jobs, help build new schools, businesses and homes throughout the state. Since 1995, some 790 brownfields sites have been cleaned up with assistance from DEM and its partners. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 7.3 jobs are supported per \$100,000 spent on brownfields redevelopment.

Rhode Island’s brownfields grant program, which covers 80 percent of a project’s cost, provides needed resources for site preparation and redevelopment projects. Site preparation grants of up to \$100,000 are available for properties that have been declared a brownfield based on previous site investigation work but lack an approved Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP). These grants can be used to fill gaps that exist in site investigation data and to develop and analyze actions necessary for an approved RAWP. Redevelopment grants of up to \$500,000 are available for projects with completed and approved site investigations and an approved RAWP and Remedial Approval Letter or Order of Approval through DEM. Funding is made possible by the 2016 Green Economy Bond.

Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program - \$527,000

The Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program provides funding to municipalities and non-profits to help evaluate brownfields sites and costs associated with remediation. A total of \$327,000 in hazardous substance funding and \$200,000 in petroleum funding is available. For more information, contact Cory DiPietro, DEM sanitary engineer, at cory.dipietro@dem.ri.gov.

Brownfields Remediation Revolving Loan Fund - \$860,000

The Brownfields Remediation Revolving Loan Fund, administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (the Infrastructure Bank) – is a new program that provides long-term, low-cost financing to public and private businesses for the cleanup of sites with hazardous substances, excluding petroleum. In partnership with the Infrastructure Bank, DEM is soliciting projects on an ongoing basis. For more information, visit www.riib.org.

A single application form, available at www.dem.ri.gov/brownfields, can be used to apply for any of the above opportunities. Electronic applications are encouraged; however, proposals may also be mailed to the DEM Permit Application Center, 235 Promenade Street, Second Floor, Providence, RI 02908. Final proposals and supporting materials are due by 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, December 1, 2017**. Government, private and community agencies are eligible to apply. Site selection will be determined on a competitive basis.

For more information on DEM programs and initiatives, visit www.dem.ri.gov. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandDEM or on Twitter (@RhodeIslandDEM) for timely updates.

Waste Scrambler Answers: brownfield grants, groundwater sampling, anaerobic digester, underground tanks, customer service, redevelopment

Deadline.....cont'd from pg. 1

Systems installed prior to May 8th, 1985 are required to be removed and permanently closed prior to December 22nd, 2017, while systems installed on or after May 9th, 1985 are required to be removed within 32 years of the installation date. If the piping system was granted a variance to be regulated as single-wall then it is required to be removed by December 22nd, 2017. This requirement DOES NOT apply to systems storing heating oil that is used solely on-site for heating purposes. Not sure when your deadline is? DEM maintains a list of all single-wall underground storage tank components along with the removal deadline on our website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/ust>

“The UST program staff have been working tirelessly to get the word out to UST owners and operations,” stated Kevin Gillen, UST Program Supervisor in OWM, “...and we’ve worked closely with Commerce RI to coordinate available resources to facilities.”

We strongly urge all owners and operators of single wall systems to plan ahead to make sure single-wall systems are removed or replaced prior to the deadline to avoid potential penalties or loss of service. If you are having difficulty finding financing or contractors to remove the systems, please contact Rhode Island Commerce Corporation at (401) 278-9100 for assistance. We also urge you to visit our website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/ust> for more information on the single-wall underground storage tank system deadline and helpful information to guide you through the removal process.