President’s Message

As we start a new “operating” year in the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, we close the door on both a successful operating year and on the calendar year. This past operating year was marked by numerous activities and opportunities for the chapter’s members to learn, network, and grow in their profession. I want to thank all of last year’s Board members, as well as numerous chapter members, who contributed their time to make the year a success. I also want to congratulate our newly elected Board members and thank them for their commitment to making the coming year a similar success.

We are in the process of setting up the technical program for 2006, which will include bi-monthly tours/programs as well as our spring and fall technical events. Our most recent tour was provided by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority after the Chapter’s annual meeting on September 14. At the meeting, DSWA provided tours of three different facilities, including two transfer stations and the Central Solid Waste Management Center, a report on which you’ll find inside. The tours were complimented by insightful comments from the facility operators and by Tom Houska and Logan Miller of the DSWA, who guided us on the tours. Thanks to Tom and Skip and to the DSWA for making this day of tours available to the Chapter, and thanks to Dana Murray for organizing this tour and the other tours throughout the year. The final event of the year was WASTECON in Austin, Texas from September 27th-29th, 2005, which featured numerous training and technical development activities as well as an outstanding (and well-attended) trade show.

Finally, as the year comes to a close, we hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and want you to know that we value your involvement and participation in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA. See you next year!

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The full list of winners is available on the SWANA website at http://www.swana.org/extra/roadeo/.
Howard County Opens New Transfer Station at the Alpha Ridge Landfill

On September 12, 2005, Howard County Department of Public Works Bureau of Environmental Services held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening day of operations for the County’s new Transfer Station. The cost of construction of the facility was $2.57 million, with an additional $490,000 for design and inspection. In addition to the transfer station building, these costs include scales, support building, alarm systems, sprinkler system, 8” waterline and tarping station.

The Transfer Station, located at the County’s Alpha Ridge Landfill, is currently designed to handle up to 500 tons per day. The design of the facility will also enable the County to expand to twice the current size in the event that there is a future need to transfer additional tonnage through this site.

The County is both owner and operator of the Transfer Station, currently processing approximately 100 tons per day of waste during the week and 200 tons on Saturday, primarily dry construction and demolition (C & D) materials. Waste Management Incorporated (WMI) provides transfer trailers and hauls the waste to King George Landfill in Virginia. However, depending on operations, the waste may go to WMI’s Annapolis Junction Transfer Station where the waste is loaded on to rail cars and rail-hauled to Virginia. (The majority of the County’s residential waste stream is transferred through WMI through the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station.)

The design of the Transfer Station reflects the “lessons learned” from other facilities, with features such as:

- Floor sloped toward a sump to handle drainage (with an oil/grease separator), as opposed to the traditional grater trench design which tends to clog;
- one-way traffic-flow design to minimize possibility of accidents;
- translucent panels on the upper part of the building to provide natural lighting of the tipping floor;
- higher roll-up doors and protective bollards to minimize damage to the doors;
- dry sprinkler system;
- push wall armoured with metal plates to reduce wear and tear;
- limited off-site staging of trailers which allows for hauling after landfill operating hours to avoid traffic delays; and,
- in-tunnel scale to check axle weights during loading and generate weight tickets for billing purposes.

This is the first government-owned transfer station in Maryland with operating scales in the facility. The County is currently leasing a 325 excavator and a 950 loader for operations, but is in the process of purchasing equipment. The floor is cleaned at the end of each day of operations, and swept with an IT 928 with a broom.

By implementing a permanent transfer solution with sufficient possible capacity for the foreseeable future, the County now has secured some protection against market volatility and an alternative to future reliance on the private sector for transfer operations. For additional information regarding this project, please contact Evelyn Tomlin at etomlin@co.ho.md.us.

Anne Arundel County Employee Earns Regional Award

Annapolis (October 13, 2005)—The Department of Public Works, Waste Management Services Bureau announced today that veteran employee Richard Howeth has won the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Mid-Atlantic Chapter (Delaware, Maryland and DC) Landfill Operator of the Year Award. In order to be considered for the award, a nominee must have a recognized excellence in the operation and maintenance of the nominee’s facility, commitment to staff development and training, professionalism and projection of a positive image of a solid waste professional among other performance criteria.

Mr. Howeth, a Landfill Supervisor at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility (MLRFR), has more than 30 years experience in Anne Arundel County government with heavy equipment operation and the safety issues that come with this responsibility. For many years, Mr. Howeth has consistently worked 9-hour days, 7 days a week to ensure the smooth operation of the landfill facility. His dedication to his profession, years of experience, and his vast working knowledge of landfill operations set Mr. Howeth apart from other nominees.

“The Bureau of Waste Management Services is extremely proud of Richard,” said James Pittman, Deputy Director of Waste Management Services. “He is a very reliable employee and his sincere dedication to his job, the staff, our customers and other County agencies are qualities that reflect well on Anne Arundel County government. Richard is a role model for other staff. The consistent exemplary condition of the facility and operational efficiency of all its components are a testament to Mr. Howeth.”

Mr. Howeth was presented with a trophy that stands over two feet high at a ceremony held September 14, 2005 at the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Annual meeting. “I was both surprised and thankful for the award, I am appreciative of the opportunity I was provided as supervisor of the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility,” said Mr. Howeth. He added, “I am also appreciative of the hard work and support I received from my staff and coworkers.”

On September 14th, SWANA visited three Delaware Solid Waste Authority facilities. Pine Tree Corners Transfer Station (PTC) was the first facility visited. Pine Tree Transfer Station sits on 80 acres of land. It opened in 1990 and was permitted to accept 50 tons per day (tpd). The facility is completing some renovations and is now permitted to accept 350 tpd. There is also a resident drop-off site at the facility where items such as yard waste, white goods, and tires are accepted. Pine Tree Corners is operated by Waste Management, Inc. and is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., six days a week.

The next facility visited was Milford Transfer Station. This facility is located on 11 acres in Kent County and is in the process of being constructed. At the time of the visit, construction was sixty percent complete. The Milford facility is designed so that all of the activity is away from the road and it is permitted to accept both residential and commercial waste with a 350 tpd permit limit based on an eight hour a day, six days a week operation. The Milford Transfer Station is scheduled to open in November 2005. DSWA is also constructing another transfer station about 30 miles from the Milford facility.

The Delaware Central Landfill was the last facility toured. The landfill opened in 1980 and currently receives 400 tpd. The landfill is capped as it is filled (approximately 2-3 acres at a time). One cell of the landfill is a bioreactor cell; this is accomplished by injecting leachate into the waste. Twenty-five percent of the leachate is being recirculated into that small cell area. The landfill has planted 14,000 trees as part of a fill has planted 14,000 trees as part of a fill cuts the ribbon…”landfill style.”

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SWANA Trip: Delaware Solid Waste Authority Facilities

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SWANA National Testing Centers

SWANA is facilitating the holding of these exams by chapters in an effort to provide a convenient location for their members to take a test to become certified without the necessity of traveling to where the course is offered. As all SWANA members should know, it is NOT necessary to take the SWANA preparatory training course in order to be eligible to take the test to be certified if you believe that you already have the requisite knowledge to pass the test. December 9th is a date when SWANA and several chapters are holding a testing center. Certifications are offered in eight (8) disciplines:

- Landfill Management (MOLO);
- Biosolids Landfill (requires MOLO certification);
- Collection Systems;
- Composting Programs;
- C & D Materials;
- Principles of MSW Management;
- Recycling Systems; and
- Transfer Station Systems.

Contact cert@SWANA.org for questions. Certification is not required in this area like some locations elsewhere in the country; however, to the public, your employer, and regulatory agencies a degree of professionalism and expertise which may set you apart from your peers (and looks good on your resume). Should the Mid-Atlantic Chapter host a testing Center or does our proximity to Silver Spring suffice for the membership of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter? If you have any interest in taking a test to be certified (or re-certified) and in taking that test in our area, let one of the Board of Directors’ members know by January 13. If there is sufficient interest, at our next Director’s meeting in January, we can discuss the feasibility of hosting such a center.