

**West Campus Cogeneration Facility (WCCF)
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2005**

Advisory Committee Members Present

Karen Carlson, RNA
John Harrod, UW-Madison
Don Peterson, MGE
Jeff Schimpff, RNA
Steve Schultz, MGE
Ann Varda, RNA

Others Present

Bob Stoffs, MGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m.

1. Review of Previous Meeting's Minutes and Review of Today's Agenda

There are no changes to the June 3, 2005, minutes. The minutes will be finalized, e-mailed to the Committee, and posted on the Web site.

2. Neighborhood Concerns or Issues

No neighborhood concerns have been brought up to WCCF or neighborhood representatives since the previous meeting.

3. Cogen Project Updates

• **Operational Status**

The facility has been tested and certified for commercial operation for electricity and chilled water. Testing to certify the steam capacity will occur as soon as the weather is cold enough for campus to use the full 400,000 lbs. of steam capacity.

• **Street Reconstruction and Landscaping Status**

Street and sidewalk construction around the facility is completed and the landscaping is mostly done. A few trees did not survive after being knocked over during a windstorm shortly after transplantation. Replacement trees will be planted this fall.

The control system for the main gate between the Walnut Plant and WCCF will be completed soon to provide additional security to the site.

West Campus Cogeneration Facility (WCCF) Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 9, 2005

- **Recreation Field Restoration**

Hauling and spreading the rec field topsoil is almost complete. The grass seed mix will be planted this fall after the soil has a chance to settle. The storm water basins have been formed and planted with about 30,000 plugs of native wetland plant species. A wire grid was installed to help keep geese from disturbing the plantings. The fields should be ready for use in the spring of 2007, though there is some chance that with optimal conditions they could be opened in the fall of 2006.

- **Cogen Dedication**

Approximately 100 people, including Governor Doyle, MGE CEO Gary Wolter, and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz attended the August 17 dedication ceremony. A large number of those attending also toured the plant.

Ann Varda expressed disappointment over Chancellor Wiley's speech as reported in *The Capital Times*. She felt his use of the "Mt. Wiley" sign at the ceremony was adversarial and has impaired the positive communication between the neighborhood and facility owners that the Advisory Committee and others have worked toward.

4. Update on Water Mitigation Projects

WCCF water use from Lake Mendota is not expected to affect the lake since levels are controlled at the Tenney dam and locks. The reduced flow out of the lake could increase the negative impact to the river habitat that occurs during periodic low flows.

To mitigate this problem, a well has been drilled to provide groundwater to replenish the Yahara River for WCCF use during very dry conditions. A second project to recharge ground water equivalent to the planned pumping is being considered for approval by the City of Madison. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is also considering permits for this project and will schedule an informational meeting to discuss the project and gather comments from the public.

The proposed recharge system would take about one-third of the water that typically flows through the large pond at Odana Hills and pump it into a drain field to be constructed in the nearby golf course. The water will replenish the underlying aquifer and is expected to help improve the water flow of some of the springs that feed Lake Wingra. Lowered stormwater flows from the Odana ponds should also reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients which promote algae and sedimentation in Lake Wingra as well.

5. Plans for Cogen Tours

Tours for local residents and businesses will be offered at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on

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Wednesday, October 5, and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 8. Tour times and details on sign-ups will be announced in a new edition of the *Cogen Connection* newsletter scheduled to be mailed between September 16 and 19.

6. Post-Construction Noise Survey

A noise survey will be conducted in September to evaluate the noise impact of the facility. Sound pressure measurements will take place at the same neighborhood locations used for the environmental noise assessment conducted prior to construction. Noise levels will be sampled both with the plant operating at high output and with the plant off-line. Results from the survey will be posted on the Advisory Committee Web site and will be shared at the next Committee meeting.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Review any new neighborhood concerns.
- Updates on WCCF operations and recreation field construction.
- Results of noise survey.

The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2006, at 7:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, 2116 Hollister Avenue.