

**West Campus Cogeneration Facility (WCCF)
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2007**

Advisory Committee members present

Karen Carlson, RNA
Don Peterson, MGE
Jeff Schimpff, RNA
Steve Schultz, MGE
Ann Varda, RNA
John Hausbeck, City of Madison

Others present

Bob Stoffs, MGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

Review of previous meeting's minutes and review of today's agenda

The June 2, 2006, minutes were approved with one minor wording change. The final minutes will be e-mailed to the Committee and posted on the Web site.

Neighborhood concerns or issues

No neighborhood concerns or complaints have been registered since the last meeting.

Jeff Schimpff asked what percentage of time fuel oil has been used to operate the WCCF. Steve Schultz answered that fuel oil has only been used during plant commissioning for initial start-up. A fuel oil test firing will be needed every year going forward. These tests will occur in the fall and are expected to last one to two hours.

Update on WCCF operations

An initial recall problem with the GE turbines has been fixed, and the facility is in full operation. During winter operation the facility ran at 25% to 50% capacity and was nearly always in cogeneration mode during operation.

The new stormwater detention ponds and restored laydown area are completed though it will take more time for the wetland plantings to be completely established around the ponds.

Update on WCCF water mitigation

Don Peterson recapped the WCCF water use mitigation system which was developed by a group of water experts from the City, County, and UW-Madison. The two part process involves pumping groundwater into the Yahara River during times of extreme low flows to mitigate the impact of WCCF water use from Lake Mendota. The amount of well water expected to be used

**West Campus Cogeneration Facility (WCCF)
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2007**

to supplement river flow during dry periods is being put back into the ground with a specially designed infiltration system on the Odana Hills golf course using excess stormwater collected at the Odana Pond.

The infiltration system was installed in 2006, but a porous material initially installed underground to help hold and disperse the water failed and was excavated and replaced with washed stone over the winter. The system is now in operation although additional work is needed to replace several water level sensors and complete restoration of the excavated area.

Some habitat improvements have been added to the pond area including three turtle nesting areas, water lotus plantings, and prairie plantings near the pond. More plantings of submergent vegetation are planned for this summer.

Karen Carlson asked about water from the WCCF that is sent to the sanitary sewer. Don indicated that in addition to the lake water used for cooling in the steam cycle, the WCCF also cleans city water by reverse osmosis for use in the steam system. A small amount of this water used to wash the cleaning system is sent back to the lake. Cooling tower and boiler blowdown water is sent to the sanitary sewer for treatment by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Update on renewable energy project

In the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding with environmental groups regarding the WCCF, MGE agreed to a \$200,000 renewable energy installation. To fulfill this last MOU provision, MGE has made arrangements with the UW-Madison to install photovoltaic lighting fixtures along a portion of the new bike and pedestrian path to be built along Campus Drive beginning this summer.

The lighting system will have 33 to 36 solar-powered light fixtures with individual batteries and controls capable of lighting the path all night. The fixtures will start at University Bay Drive and end near Walnut Street. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

This installation will test the efficacy of self-contained PV lighting in our area. These lights would be well suited for use in remote locations where electricity is not easily available.

Future status of WCCF Advisory Committee

Since there have been very few concerns expressed about the WCCF in the two years of operation, the consensus was to maintain the committee but discontinue regular meetings unless an issue comes up that needs to be resolved. MGE agreed to provide regular e-mail updates on WCCF operations to the committee members on at least an annual basis.