

**West Campus Cogeneration Facility (WCCF)  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2005**

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**Advisory Committee members present**

John Harrod, UW-Madison  
Don Peterson, MGE  
Steve Schultz, MGE  
Brian Stone, RNA  
Ann Varda, RNA

**Others present**

David Dewitt, Regent Neighborhood  
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**

- C There are no changes to the January 7, 2005, minutes. The minutes will be finalized, e-mailed to the Committee, and posted on the Web site.

**Cogen project updates**

**C WCCF steam blow**

- Don Peterson described the steam pipe cleaning process. High-pressure water or hydrolasing was used initially to clean the steam pipes. Then steam blows were conducted February 28 through March 2. High-pressure steam was blown through pipes that connect the two combustion turbine/heat recovery boiler systems in the facility to the steam turbine and to campus. The steam was then carried outside the facility with temporary piping and vented about six feet off the ground.
- The neighborhood was notified of this process, but the information turned out to be incorrect regarding the noise levels. Higher temperature steam was needed to complete the cleaning process which significantly increased the noise level. The higher pressure blows occurred from about 2 p.m. until around 10 or 11 p.m. on Monday and until about 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- MGE received e-mail and phone contacts from 13 different Regent Neighborhood residents complaining about the noise level and giving feedback that the noise was much louder than described in the neighborhood mailing.

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- David Dewitt indicated residents were very upset that the noise had run so late into the evening. He also asked how the residents could be sure the noise would be better when the plant is actually running.
- Peterson explained that during the cleaning process a device was used to reduce the venting noise, but the process bypassed the much more comprehensive noise control measures that will be used during normal operation.
- Comprehensive modeling used to select noise control measures was conducted by the Washington Group, the facility design company. This modeling was reviewed and confirmed by a second firm specializing in sound measurement. The modeling used conservative assumptions about the acoustic conditions in the neighborhood. The model assumed a line of sight to every area of the neighborhood with no noise absorption or reduction from buildings, trees, or foliage.
- It was pointed out that MGE and the UW-Madison committed to no perceptible increase in noise levels in the neighborhood and there will be a follow-up analysis based on the initial monitoring data to make sure that goal is met.
- Advisory Committee members discussed the need for better monitoring and feedback processes during plant operation. Several possible options were discussed including a 24-hour phone number for noise complaints and more frequent monitoring of sound levels in the neighborhood by facility operators. The committee decided to hold monthly meetings at least through June to work on these communication issues for facility start-up and operation and to plan additional efforts to educate neighborhood residents about the Committee and the established complaint process.

**Other construction updates**

- Facility power systems will be down for about a week to remove temporary piping used in the steam blow.
- Work is continuing on commissioning controls for chillers and other equipment.
- Emissions testing needed for the DNR air permit is scheduled for mid-April.
- The facility is expected to begin commercial operation around May 1, 2005.

Brian Stone asked that results for the air tests and noise tests be made available to the neighborhood.

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**Update on water vs. mitigation projects**

- C The approved WCCF water mitigation plan involves two steps:
- A well drilled near the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant will pump water into the Yahara River to offset WCCF water use impacts during dry, low-flow periods.
  - To compensate for the water pumped during dry periods, an equivalent amount of stormwater will be infiltrated back into the aquifer. After evaluating 20 potential recharge sites, MGE is proposing to infiltrate water from ponds at the Odana Hills Golf Course into an underground drain field in a rough area between fairways. City of Madison Parks and Engineering Departments are supportive of this option and a proposal has been submitted to the City Council. A public meeting is scheduled for March 17 at the Odana Hills Club house to inform neighbors and get public input. If approved, project construction will start in the fall of 2005 and be ready for water recharge in the spring of 2006.

**Update on measures from Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

- C Bob Stoffs gave a brief update on the status of MOU measures. Completed actions include:
- Installation of a particulate matter air monitor.
  - \$200,000 provided to the City of Madison to convert Metro Transit buses to ultra low sulfur diesel in 2005.
  - Advisory Committee and complaint process.
- C Ongoing or planned MOU measures include:
- WCCF water mitigation (discussed previously).
  - Comprehensive plans to offset NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate matter emissions from the WCCF.
  - MGE and UW projects to reduce area VOC emissions.
  - Bids for development of a county hydrologic watershed model.
  - Review of potential site(s) for \$200,000 solar electric project.

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- Installation of Dark Sky compliant lighting at WCCF.
- Post-construction noise evaluation at residential receptors to confirm agreed noise levels.

**Neighborhood concerns or issues**

C All contacts from neighborhood related to steam blow noise as discussed earlier.

**Agenda items for next meeting**

- Construction updates.
- Review of complaint process.
- Planning for communication and education surrounding WCCF start-up.
- Further discussion of air-monitoring data.
- Review any new neighborhood concerns.

The next meeting is April 8, 2005, at 7:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, 2116 Hollister Avenue.