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Waste-to-Energy Facilities: A National Strategic Asset

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The importance of the topics illustrated to the audience and industry in this presentation will become self evident as to the industry's future. In light of the events of September 11, 2001; the volatility of the middle eastern oil interests; and initiatives regarding national security and homeland defense, it would appear that any energy technology that can reduce America's dependence on foreign oil should be considered a national strategic asset. As such, one could assert that today's municipal waste combustors that provide electrical capacity and/or steam capacity (i.e. waste-to-energy facilities) are a strategic asset since they reduce our dependence on foreign oil and convert "garbage" into a resource.

The primary points of this topic illustrate a path for industry to take in order to elevate to a national level the concept that waste-to-energy facilities are a national strategic asset. This new national effort should be based on the following premises or understandings:

- That American soil (i.e. the land) is precious and the less space we take up with garbage (i.e. spent resources) the better we will be for it.

- That today's municipal waste combustors that provide electrical capacity and/or steam capacity are a strategic asset that reduces America's dependence on foreign oil, captures otherwise discarded metal resources and preserves valuable land.

- That we are a "wasteful society" and that the way to change or alter this phenomenon is to change at the source; that this characteristic of our behavior is manifested in each individual and each corporation that designs and manufactures a product; that "to waste not is to want not"; that the best way to reduce waste is not to make it in the first place.

- That solid waste management master planning should look beyond the 10 or 20 year plan and should be integrated with other community planning processes to compel

broader thinking and more opportunities for new initiatives for solid waste resource recovery; that significant waste reduction capacity exist in the waste stream, but will require a concerted effort at the national level to capture; that this is a long-term necessity for the preservation of our resources.

- Waste-to-Energy facilities typically are the lynchpin of many solid waste systems, as they provide for waste reduction, resource recovery, energy revenues, maximizing landfill capacity, levelizing system debt and stabilizing user fees.

- This is the time for Americans to come together to find ways to integrate old and new ideologies and to find compatible solutions for both.

As America moves into the 21st Century a new "American Revolution" is needed that will stimulate debate in this country for a more comprehensive solution to waste reduction, waste disposal and resource preservation. New philosophical initiatives are required at the national level that will enhance the waste reduction and recycling efforts being carried out at the state and local levels. Emphasis should be given to stimulating the initiative for a national solid waste policy and long-term master plan.

Sam Rosania is a graduate of the University of Florida, with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the College of Agriculture. Mr. Rosania is a Senior Project Scientist with Malcolm Pirnie, with his office located in Ybor City, Florida. He currently works on a variety of resource recovery and recycling projects for municipal clients. Additionally, Mr. Rosania has 24 years experience in both the public and private sectors and is accomplished in project administration and coordination, contracts management, environmental health services, environmental permitting, solid waste management, and contamination and remediation activities. Mr. Rosania has developed, implemented, and administered a diverse range of environmental programs related to municipal solid waste management, recycling, special waste management, resource recovery, petroleum contamination assessment / remediation, composting, and waste water residuals management services. Additional experience includes support activities for other non-solid waste management projects, Brownfields projects, site assessments, and market development.