

WM2016 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 63: **US Nuclear Power Plant Waste Management – LLW Processor Issues**

Co-Chairs: **Mark Lewis**, *EnergySolutions*
 Clint Miller, *Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)*

Panel Reporter: **Clint Miller**, *PG&E*

Panelists:

1. **Joe Heckman**, *General Manager, Bear Creek Processing, EnergySolutions*
2. **Andy Avila**, *Business Development Manager, Omega Technical Services*
3. **Josh Norman**, *Permafix Environmental Services*
4. **Gregg Johnstone**, *Director –Sales & Marketing, UniTech Services*

About 25 people were present to hear this session on Commercial Low-level waste processor issues in the USA. The session opened with four panelists providing an update on their facilities. This was followed by a question and answer period.

Summary of Presentations

Joe Heckman opened the proceedings providing an overview of the various facilities EnergySolutions operates. The Bear Creek facility in Oak Ridge incinerates about 7 million lbs/yr. while metal melt processes treats about 6,000 tons/yr. Super-compaction of DAW, repackaging of DAW, lead recycling and C-van & container handling is also conducted at Bear Creek. The adjacent (old MMT) facility has been repurposed for resin container storage and packaging. The filter shredder will be re-located to this facility soon from Barnwell, SC. Resin thermal processing is conducted at the Erwin, TN facility. Clearance survey or "Green is Clean" processing is conducted at the Gallaher Road facility near Bear Creek. Segmentation of large components and Safe Shop operations are conducted at the Memphis facility.

Andy Avila described Omega Technical Services processing model. They are focused on disposition of low activity material. Bulk Survey for release is one service with disposal at Chestnut Ridge or Carter valley landfills in Tennessee. Any reject material is repackaged for disposal at the low activity cell at Andrews Texas. Super Sort services qualify and repackage DAW for disposal at the Texas low activity cell. In 2015 Omega processed about 200,000 lbs with 70-80% of waste meeting BSFR disposal.

Josh Norman gave an overview of the Permafix facilities in Oak Ridge, TN, Gainesville, FL and Richland, WA. Mixed waste is processed at the Oak Ridge and Gainesville facilities. At Richland, Bulk Processing units for thermal treatment of DAW, compaction and metal decon services are offered.

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Gregg Johnstone gave an over view of UniTech's survey services for recovery or release of tools and equipment. UniTech has teamed with Babcock Services which offers metal decontamination services in addition to BSFR program.

UniTech has created many unique rad monitors to speed the clearance survey of equipment including pipe splitters. UniTech is just completing a large project in Canada and has cleared 85% of the equipment. Babcock Services has processed 1.5-2 million lbs of material for BSFR. Any rejects are routed to *EnergySolutions* Bear Creek for disposal as LLW at Clive, UT.

Question and Answer

Question – *EnergySolutions* and Permafix were asked about the attribution they manifested for thermally treated waste.

Answer - Permafix can manifest the thermal residue as the client's waste or as the processor's waste as directed by the client. The Bulk Processing unit enables Permafix to make small batch runs to determine the volume of client waste.

EnergySolutions at both Bear Creek and Erwin are required by current licenses to record thermal residue as the processor waste. They do provide a report listing the clients who have waste is in each container as required by the states of Texas, Utah and Compacts.