

I am very disappointed in the lack of the of reporting from the Energy Power Partners about the study they are conducting regarding the feasibility of installing an anaerobic digester in Monroe County.

When the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District was asked to partner with the City of Bloomington Utilities to split the \$129,220 cost of such a study, we were told:

1. The principals - which should have included the executive committee of the MCSWMD - would receive monthly updates on the progress of the study.
2. Initially the study was to look at placing the anaerobic digester at the Blutcher Poole waste water treatment plant.
3. The feedstock to be considered (page 31, see next item) was listed as:
 - Fats, oils and grease (FOG)
 - Commercial source separated organic waste streams
 - Industrial/food and beverage organic residual waste streams
 - Other municipal wastewater treatment biosolids
 - Residential organics within City of Bloomington
4. The consultants would look at the potential feedstock market within a 50-mile radius. The 50-mile radius was specifically included in the information included on page 31 of the MCSWMD packet of March 10, 2022.
5. At least one member of the MCSWMD board voted to fund the initial study because the group was informed about the possibility of producing high-grade bio-solids which might be approved for land application.

Per the report which MCSWMD Director Tom McGlasson shared with the MCSWMD Board on November 4, 2022 (page 1, bullet point 3), Energy Power Partners, or EPP, met with CBU staff, himself, and two members of the Solid Waste District's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, to provide a study update. No member of the executive committee attended, and no effort was made to schedule a time to meet with them. This is NOT the monthly update I felt we were promised and which should have been delivered.

The Blutcher Poole site was dismissed by the consultants, with the focus shifting to the Dillman Road WWTP. This feels to me, personally, like a bait-and-switch, especially since we had been told there wasn't room at the Dillman Road site to install an anaerobic digester.

The radius for the potential feedstock market was increased by EPP, without approval from the Solid Waste Board, and they expanded the feedstock to be considered from the ones I previously listed to the organic waste from an abattoir. Increasing the radius from 50 to 75

miles increases the hauling cost, and has the potential to increase pollution due to additional heavy trucks on the roads. This does not seem environmentally friendly.

At the October 26, 2022, meeting, attendees were told only Class B bio-solids would be produced. I have come to learn that this type of raw solid waste from the digester is generally only used by large farming operations of the size that do not exist in Monroe County, and that they must either be drilled or “sliced” into the soil. I have learned that there may be enough raw solid waste produced to cover 600 acres of land each year, that a facility must exist to store this solid waste during times of the year when farmers cannot apply it to their land, and that IDEM must approve such a use. And that is **IF** sufficient feed stock can be obtained from beyond the original 50-mile radius, something that doesn’t seem to be guaranteed, especially if hauling costs go up. Of course, if the raw solid waste has to be shipped outside of Monroe County, that also decreases its value to potential purchasers.

If the Solid Waste District Exec Board had been informed of these changes to the contract and the initial results with regard to sourcing the feed stock back in October, we might have asked EPP to stop their study and to bill us for their work up to that time.

But there are also other problems. I have learned that the anaerobic digester which was built and operated in Madison, Wisconsin, has been shut down. Why? Contamination and repeated shutdowns.

As one looks at food waste as a possible feed stock, please keep in mind that if one hopes to source that from grocery stores, it must first be removed from packaging. That requires a separate facility, and I am told that the work can be dangerous. It is also difficult to source uncontaminated feed stock from homes and restaurants due to contamination.

Contaminants impact any methane gas which is produced, often producing too much CO₂ and inert gases that would need to be removed before being sold to a utility company or burned on-site.

Contaminants also impact the raw solid waste that would be produced. One of the feed stocks that would go into such a digester is the waste water from CBU’s two waste water treatment plants, and it is my understanding that no testing is done at either site for heavy metals. Such heavy metals can be toxic, meaning the raw solid waste would be hauled to a landfill, not used in farming.

In my opinion, EPP should have ended its study months ago and not charged us for the full study. As such I would like for this board to consider whether EPP’s decision to expand the scope of the study without the authorization and consent of this board constitutes a breach of contract. If you feel it does, I ask that we consider not paying the \$64,610 we originally agreed to pay.