SANITAS ACQUIRES FIVE SOLID WASTE FIRMS WITH $4.2-MILLION SALES VOLUME

Sanitas Service Corp., Hartford, Conn., has announced acquisition of five solid waste collection and disposal companies with aggregate annual sales volume set at approximately $4.2-million. All firms acquired will operate as subsidiaries of Sanitas Waste Control Corp. and terms of the acquisitions have not been disclosed.

Acquired firms include Sumpter Sand, Inc., Detroit, Mich., and Zebrowski & Associates, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind., both engaged in sanitary landfill operations; Niagara Sanitation Associates, Inc., and affiliates of Buffalo, N.Y.; Murtha Enterprises, Inc., and affiliates of Naugatuck, Conn.; and Tidy Rubbish Removal, Inc., Kensington, Conn., all waste collection firms.

David Weintraub, Sanitas' president and chief executive officer, also announced that the town of Brookline, Mass., has awarded a contract to a waste development subsidiary, Sanitas Technology and Development Corp., for a comprehensive solid waste management analysis. Under the agreement, Sanitas will design for Brookline an optimized system for refuse collection, which will include efficient and economical management of Brookline's solid waste.

In related developments, Sanitas reported receipt of orders for 14 Consumat solid waste disposal units from Hot Springs, Ark., eight units; Stuttgart, Ark., two units; Donaldsville, La., Bentonville, Ark., Augusta, Ark., and Marco Island, Fla., one unit each. Sanitas' subsidiary, Booth Services, Inc., Houston, Tex., was awarded contracts for gas pipeline construction totaling about $6-million from Lone Star Gas Co., Dallas, and Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.

* * *

PCB RESIDUALS DESTROYED 99.9% IN ENVIROTECH INCINERATOR TESTS

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) present in waste sludges can be almost totally decomposed in multiple hearth incinerators developed by the BSP Division of Envirotech Corp., Frank P. Sebastian, Envirotech senior vice president, told a press briefing at the Water Pollution Control Federation's 45th annual conference in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 10.

A newly completed research project by BSP showed that the long-lived chlorinated hydrocarbons in sludges can be over 99.9% decomposed in a BSP multiple hearth furnace when operated at an exhaust gas temperature of 1100 F., Sebastian said. He noted that the BSP exhaust temperature is 500 degrees lower than temperatures previously reported in Federal government studies on sludge incineration methods. PCB levels in raw sludge, as reported by the EPA Incinerator Task Force, generally ranged from 0 to 13 ppm, but with one measurement as high as 105 ppm.

"The conventional operation of multiple hearth furnances -- with 800 F. exhaust gas -- destroys 94% of PCB's" Sebastian stated. "Thus, in cases where PCB's are recycled through the wastewater system a second cycle through a sludge furnace would result in 99.4% destruction. The BSP study shows that multiple hearth incineration can achieve more efficient PCB destruction in combination with sewage sludge than other types of incineration."

Sebastian said that most of the heat required in a BSP furnace is normally supplied by the organic content of the waste sludges and the considerably lower exhaust temperature in the BSP furnace allows fuel savings of 60% in removing PCB's from the environment. Overall cost of sludge incineration was put at 2-1/2¢ per capita per week.

The BSP sludge incineration furnace can safely decompose PCB's with only nominal changes in operation, Sebastian noted, adding that the stack gases are highly cleaned to meet the most stringent air pollution codes in the U.S. "The air pollution impact in handling waste sludge on a per capita basis is about equal to burning 1 oz. of gasoline in an auto equipped with1972 pollution control device."

Sebastian said the incineration of waste sludges is gaining acceptance in the U.S. and abroad, reflecting the growing opposition to ocean dumping of sludge as an environmentally harmful disposal practice.

0065137

TOWOLDMON0055812