



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Further Information: Brian Flaherty (860) 757-7771
(860) 939-7534 (Pager)

CRRA Advances Bridgeport Emission Control Upgrade

\$2.1 million project to move forward nearly 1 year ahead of schedule;
Belden: 'System will dramatically reduce NOx emissions'

BRIDGEPORT (September 24, 2001) The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) has accelerated its schedule for the installation of a system to control oxides of nitrogen (NOx) at its Bridgeport resources recovery facility.

The emission control equipment, originally slated for completion in 2003, is now on track for completion nearly a year earlier than planned: by mid-2002, the Authority announced today. Known as a selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) system, the emission control equipment reduces NOx by converting it to harmless nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and water. NOx is known as a "greenhouse gas" and is a precursor of smog.

"Concern for Connecticut's air, water and soil led to CRRA's creation a generation ago," said CRRA President Robert E. Wright. "Continuing concern for our state's natural resources is driving us to use the cleanest and safest ways possible to handle waste.

"CRRA's four resources recovery facilities are not major NOx producers, especially when compared to fossil fuel electricity generating plants, but this system will ensure that the Bridgeport plant *over-complies* with new state NOx emission limits that will come on-line in May 2003," said Shelton state Rep. Richard O. Belden, a member of CRRA's Board of Directors. .

"Statewide, our four projects are in compliance with the rules today, thanks to over-compliance at our Hartford and Wallingford facilities," Belden said. "Hartford's Mid-Connecticut facility is so far below its limits that it generates emissions credits that other facilities seek to buy. Rather than relying on that strength as a back-up, however, we decided to move ahead aggressively in Bridgeport."

Controls designed to meet—and beat—strict state NOx limits

In 1999, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted broad regulations for the control of mercury and NOx emissions from municipal waste combustors. CRRA has already installed the mercury controls at the Bridgeport facility, and was planning to complete the installation of the NOx controls to comply with the May 2003 deadline.

"The de-NOx equipment will not only be on-line in 2002, it is being designed to beat the strict limits that will take effect in 2003," added Wright.

Wright credited the ability to move ahead to a decision by the Authority's Board of Directors, which saw the newly restored financial strength of the Bridgeport Project as an opportunity to take action.

"Thanks to our partnership with local elected officials and municipal representatives on the Project's Solid Waste Advisory Board, there has been a significant turnaround in the Bridgeport Project in the past three years. Deliveries have been restored to the Project, the bonds have been refinanced to produce a substantial savings, and disposal fees have been steadily reduced from a high of \$90.00 per ton to the current level of \$67.00 per ton," Wright explained. "At the suggestion of Rep. Belden, our Board of Directors decided that our *economic* improvement should spur *environmental* improvement, so we accelerated the NOx controls to the fullest extent possible," Wright explained.

"CRRA's resource recovery facilities, which generate energy from household garbage that cannot be recycled, help solve issues critical to Connecticut's quality of life," Wright continued. "And even while we are reviewing technologies the world over for the next generation of clean waste disposal systems, we want to make sure that when CRRA's current facilities can be improved, they are. That is essentially what we are doing."

The Bridgeport Project

CRRA is a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, responsible for providing solid waste management and recycling services to over two-thirds of Connecticut cities and towns. The Bridgeport Project serves 760,000 people in 18 communities in the southwest and south central part of the state. Those municipalities are:

Bethany	Greenwich	Stratford
Bridgeport	Milford	Trumbull
Darien	Monroe	Weston
East Haven	Norwalk	Westport
Easton	Orange	Wilton
Fairfield	Shelton	Woodbridge

In addition to these towns, Stamford and New Canaan send their recyclables to the Bridgeport Project for recycling.