



Environmental Justice Meeting  
Rensselaer City Hall  
February 25, 2020, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

---

Project: Rensselaer Engineered Fuels Solid Waste Processing Facility  
36 Riverside Avenue, Rensselaer, NY  
DEC #4-3814-00084

Attendance: Rensselaer Resource Recovery, LLC (Applicant)

- Dennis Soriano
- Emily Dyson

Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C. (Applicant's Consultant)

- Andrew Millspaugh, P.E.
- Amanda Castignetti

The West Firm, PLLC (Applicant's Attorney)

- Tom West

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

- Nancy Baker
- Kate Kornak

Office of the Attorney General

- Casandra Walker

City of Rensselaer

- Mayor Michael Stammel
- 16 Residents

Summary of Meeting Content:

The meeting began with introductions by the Applicant and the showing of a video that described the project technology and included testimonials of community members in proximity to an operating facility in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Following the video, details of the project traffic study were discussed highlighting that the level of service for surrounding intersections will not be negatively impacted by projected facility traffic. The meeting was then opened to public comment and an open dialogue continued for approximately 90 minutes between community members and the Applicant.

*"Serving our clients and the environment since 1993"*

Summary of Comments and Questions:

1. Project Permitting
  - a. General concern that an Environmental Impact Statement is not being required.
2. Facility Traffic
  - a. Who will maintain the condition of roadways that may be impacted by increased truck traffic?
  - b. How will blowing debris from incoming trucks be managed?
  - c. How will truck traffic be prevented from traveling through the historic Fort Crailo Neighborhood?
  - d. General concern that increased truck traffic will add to an already difficult intersection at South Street.
3. Location
  - a. General concern that the facility will be 400 feet from a residence.
  - b. General comment agreeing with the technology and concept of the facility, but against the location in proximity to a historic neighborhood.
  - c. What makes the selected location preferable to other locations not in Rensselaer? Why has the applicant pulled out of other locations in NY?
  - d. How will the facility be protective of the Hudson River? General concern that excavating on the BASF property may mobilize contamination.
4. Community Benefit
  - a. What will the facility provide to the community?
    - i. What is the tax benefit?
    - ii. Will there be reduced disposal fees?
    - iii. Will facility employees be hired locally?
  - b. Will there be a decrease in property values for surrounding residences?
5. Facility Operations
  - a. Will there be a size restriction on trucks servicing the facility?
  - b. How will the facility make sure that the Facility does not become inundated with more waste than the facility can handle?
  - c. How will odors be managed when truck doors are constantly opened and closed throughout the day.

Applicant's Response to Comments and Questions:

## 1. Project Permitting

The project has undergone extensive environmental review. The City review occurred over a six month period with several public meetings and supporting studies supplementing the Full Environmental Assessment Form. Throughout this review period, the City provided detailed technical review comments through its hired engineering firm. To respond to the City's review comments, local subject matter experts were retained for specific topics of concern (e.g., traffic, flooding). Based on the review record, the City as Lead Agency determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

## 2. Facility Traffic

The independent traffic evaluation report indicates that projected facility traffic is within the capacity of existing street infrastructure, both in terms of vehicle type and quantity. Trucks servicing the facility access the Port of Rensselaer through the designated entrance and exit route along the Irwin Stewart Port Expressway.

The project is committed to being a valued community member and is prepared to implement several measures to combat truck traffic in the Fort Crailo neighborhood and blowing litter from trucks servicing the facility. Contracts with waste haulers will include a provision where if a truck is found violating the truck route, the hauler will be suspended from using the facility and will be required to continue paying for their contracted disposal quantity. This financial deterrent is proven effective and puts the incentive on the hauling company to self-enforce. Regarding litter, approximately half of the facility staff will be laborers whose primary responsibility will be policing the facility grounds and immediate surrounding community within 0.5 mile of the facility. We encourage all community members to provide comments and suggestions to Mayor Stammel for consideration when negotiating a Host Community Agreement for the project.

We understand several community members have concerns with the existing condition of certain roadways and intersections, and we recommend that these concerns be directed to local government including the Department of Transportation who have the authority to implement improvement projects of their infrastructure.

## 3. Location

The project selected this location for several reasons including the parcel availability, existing industrial zoning, redevelopment potential, and regional demand for waste management options. The project sponsors were attempting to develop a site downstate, but abandoned plans when development cost projections increased to the point that the project was no longer viable. The downstate location differed from the Rensselaer location in that it was a greenfield and had steep slopes making for difficult construction.

Several comments were received regarding the proximity of the facility to residences, and in particular being only 400 feet from a residence. The attached site rendering figure is provided to show how little of the parcel will be occupied by the facility, with the remainder of the parcel being greenspace. The northeast parcel corner is approximately 400 feet from a residence; however, as shown, the facility will be over 800 feet away with thick existing vegetative screening. Similarly, the facility is screened from the Fort Crailo neighborhood by the existing AMRI facility.

The facility will be approximately 650 feet away from the Hudson River, located on the east side of Riverside Avenue and 3 feet above the base flood elevation. To support the environmental review by the City, a flood assessment was performed by an independent subject matter expert, which determined that the facility development would not have any impact on the 100 year floodplain. Project representatives have met with NYSDEC regarding development of the BASF property to ensure that construction activities comply with site requirements for handling potentially contaminated soil and groundwater. The project plans to import soil to increase the cover thickness throughout the facility footprint to raise the building 3 feet above the Hudson River base flood elevation. The attached cross section shows how the majority of the construction will be above the existing ground surface. Disturbance of existing soil and groundwater will occur at the location of the reception pits. These pits have been reconfigured compared to other similar facilities to limit the depth to 17 feet below the facility floor. With the planned increase in the ground elevation, the pits are planned to extend less than 10 feet into the existing ground, as shown in the attached cross section.

#### 4. Community Benefit

As stated during the meeting, the project is committed to being a valued community member and will be negotiating a Host Community Agreement with the City that may include benefits such as reduced disposal fees. We encourage all community members to provide comments and suggestions to Mayor Stammel for consideration when negotiating the agreement. The facility will have a staff of 20 to 25 employees ranging from laborers to technical positions (e.g., mechanics). A majority of the employees will be hired locally.

Property values are dependent on a number of factors. The project will develop the BASF parcel into predominantly grass landscape with the facility building as shown on the attached rendering. The facility itself will be a clean and modern looking warehouse style building.

#### 5. Facility Operations

Deliveries of waste will be in standard garbage trucks, while outgoing Solid Recovered Fuel and extracted recyclables will be in standard semi-trailers with trailer lengths up to 53 feet. No oversized or overweight trucks will service the facility. The facility is seeking a permit to receive 150,000 tons of waste per year, which equates to between 400 and 500 tons per day and is compatible with the facility design. The facility will not be authorized to exceed the permitted capacity without modifying the permit. As a practical matter, the received waste has a minimum residence time in the biodrying stage of the process, which limits the amount of waste that can be received to the design capacity. Contracts with waste haulers will specify the allowable quantity of waste that the facility will receive.

The facility negative pressure ventilation system is designed in consideration that truck receiving doors open and close throughout the day. When a truck door is open, the building ventilation rate is sufficient to maintain an inward airflow through the door opening.

S:\Sterling\Projects\2018 Projects\Rensselaer Engineered Fuels - 2018-09 Drawings-Maps-Figures\ACAD\2018-09006\_Site Vicinity Map.dwg CAD 3/5/2020 4:53 PM

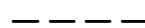


MAP REFERENCE: DISCOVER GIS DATA NY ORTHOIMAGERY, 2017.  
PHOTOGRAPH REFERENCE: GOOGLE IMAGES 2019

**LEGEND:**



PHOTOGRAPH ORIENTATION



PROPERTY BORDER

# STERLING

Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C.

24 Wade Road • Latham, New York 12110

RENSELAER ENGINEERED FUELS  
36 RIVERSIDE AVENUE  
SITE VICINITY MAP

CITY OF RENSELAER

RENSELAER CO., NY

PROJ. No.: 2018-09

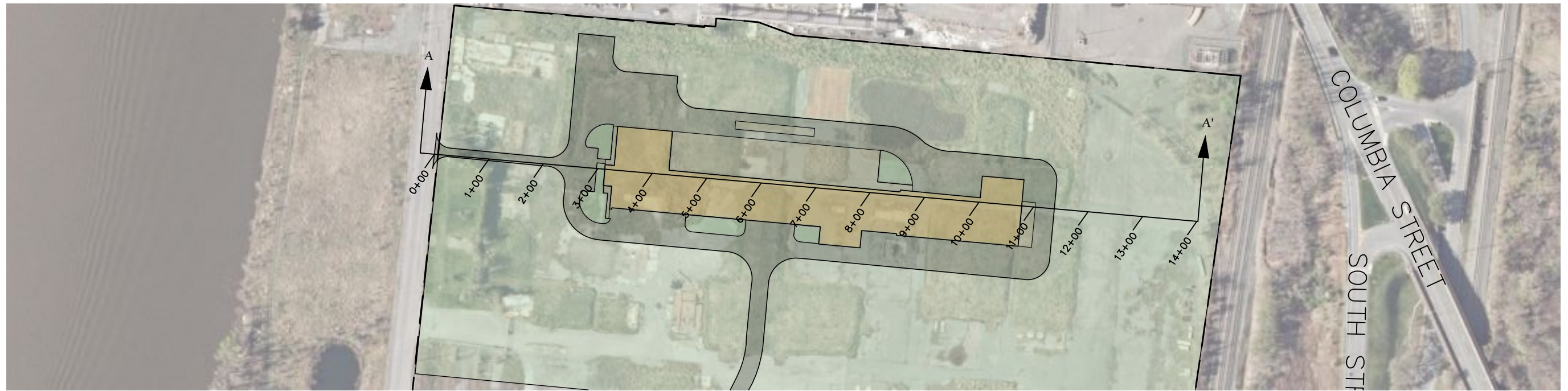
DATE: 03/05/2020

SCALE:

1" = 300'

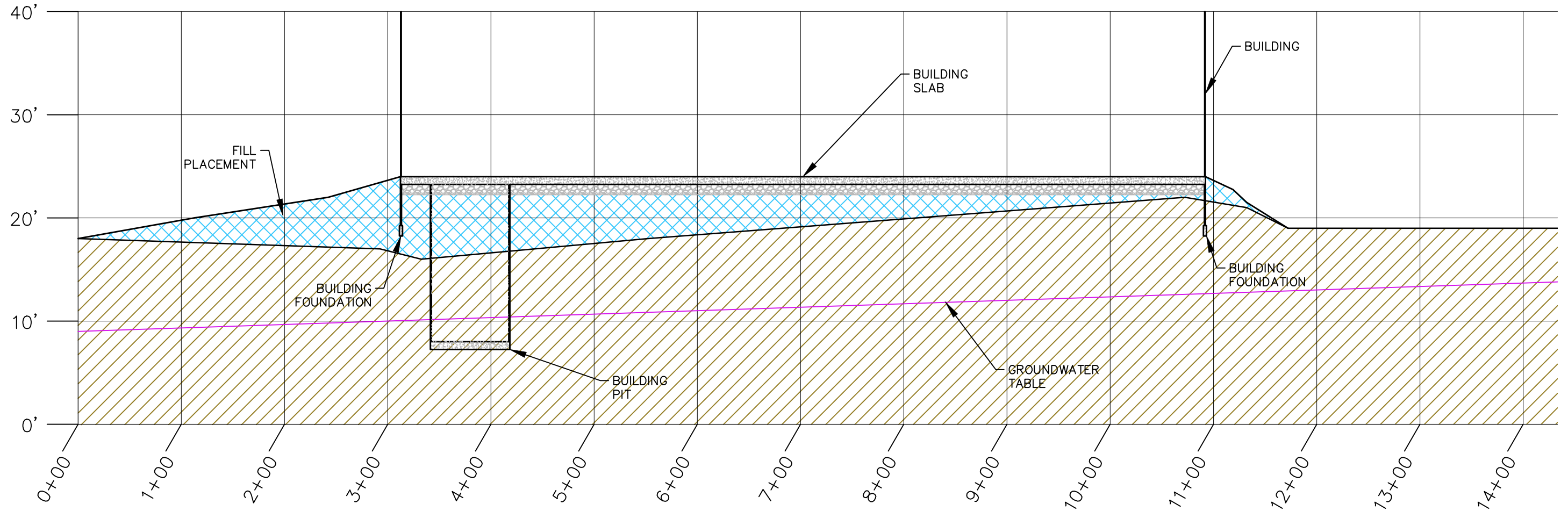
DWG. NO. 2018-09006

S:\Sterling\Projects\2018\Projects\Rensselaer Engineered Fuels - 2018-09\Drawings-Maps-Figures\ACAD\2018-09007\_F-1 - Construction Cross Section.dwg SWEETT 3/10/2020 3:10 PM



**SITE PLAN**




SCALE: 1" = 200'



**SITE CROSS SECTION**

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 100'  
VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 10'

**LEGEND:**

-  EXISTING SOILS
-  SOIL FILL
-  GROUNDWATER TABLE

MAP REFERENCE: DISCOVER GIS DATA NY ORTHOIMAGERY, 2017.

**STERLING**

Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C.  
24 Wade Road • Latham, New York 12110

EXCAVATION AND FILL PLACEMENT  
CROSS SECTION VIEW  
**RENSELAER ENGINEERED FUELS**  
36 RIVERSIDE AVE

CITY OF RENSSELAER

RENSELAER CO., NY

PROJ. No.: 2018-09 | DATE: 03/09/2020 | SCALE: AS NOTED | DWG. NO. 2018-09007