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Renewable Energy Project Operational at Akron's Closed Hardy Road Landfill

AKRON, Ohio — The former Hardy Road Landfill in the City of Akron is now supplying electricity to an adjacent city-owned wastewater treatment plant as part of new waste-to-energy project designed specifically for the closed landfill. Hull & Associates, Inc., an industry leader in energy, project development, and environmental consulting, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the facility today to unveil the new project. Officials speaking at the event included Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and representatives from Hull and IGS Energy.

“This waste-to-energy project provides about 40 percent of our electricity needs at the wastewater plant,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “By mid-2013, through two innovative green projects, we will be able to generate, on-site, about 95 percent of the electricity required to operate the wastewater plant. This is just another example of how we are working to improve our operations and preserve our environment, so our grandchildren and their children’s children can enjoy a ‘green’ and prosperous community.”

Hull and the City of Akron entered into an agreement last fall to develop and install a 1,100 kilowatt electrical generation and distribution system designed to capture methane gas from the landfill and convert it to electricity. Landfill gas is comprised of approximately 50 percent methane, which is produced as solid waste decomposes in a landfill. Closed in 2002, the former Hardy Road Landfill produces approximately 17,500 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) of landfill gas which the city previously flared off from the facility. This new project, which is now converting the gas to electricity, will produce approximately 8,600 megawatt hours of electricity annually for the wastewater treatment plant, or the equivalent of enough energy to power approximately 700-800 homes.

Located at 2460 Akron-Peninsula Road, the project is being managed by Hull Energy, LLC, an energy project development and asset management company. An affiliate of Hull & Associates, Inc., Hull Energy has been established to develop, operate and own a diversified portfolio of energy projects for municipal, commercial and industrial clients.

“By capturing the gas from this closed landfill and converting it to energy to help power the city’s wastewater treatment plant, this project truly is the definition of recycling,” said Hull Energy’s Steve Giles. “We’ve taken a previously unused resource and converted it into an energy-producing and environmentally-beneficial project for the community.”

Hull, along with IGS Energy, supported the costs for acquiring, installing, and operating the waste-to-energy system. Additional financing was provided by FirstMerit Bank. As part of the agreement, Hull is selling the electricity generated by the system to the city at a reduced rate, with the city also having rights to use any excess landfill gas produced. Hull broke ground on the project at the end of 2011 and began operating the system in August. The project was installed by Ohio workers, with all major components of the system being manufactured in the United States.

With 170 employees and six offices throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic, Hull's focus is to provide innovative, value-added services to many pressing and complex challenges in the brownfields, alternative energy, waste management, environmental, and shale oil and gas markets.