



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Memo

Date: May 28, 2019
To: Warren Johnson, Interim Solid Waste Information Compliance and Cleanup Manager
From: Joanna Dyer, Interim Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Subject: Amended Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19A for WestRock Portland Recycle

Attached for your signature is amended Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19A for WestRock Portland Recycle (WestRock) which extends the term of the current authorization to receive and process source-separated recyclable materials, with no other changes. The current license was issued for a six-month term to allow time for Metro to further investigate the concerns that were raised by the neighboring community during the public comment period and solicit additional input from the public to help inform longer-term operating requirements. This proposed license amendment will extend the term to align it with other similar solid waste facility licenses, to expire on September 30, 2023. With the exception of the extended term, the proposed amended license carries forward all of WestRock's current license conditions. This memo provides information on community engagement efforts and recommends that Metro issue the license as attached.

Background

The applicant, WestRock, is owned by WestRock, CP, LLC based in Atlanta, GA. WestRock is located at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland where similar businesses have operated since 1993. The facility is authorized to receive source-separated residential and commercial recyclables, including corrugated cardboard, plastics, glass and paper, for classification and baling for both domestic and international markets.

Metro issued a short-term license to WestRock which will expire on June 30, 2019.¹ Metro issued the six-month license in consideration of the public input that was received in 2018, including community hosted meetings that Metro participated in at the Lents Neighborhood Livability Association on October 11, 2018, and the Lents Neighborhood Association on November 27, 2018.

On April 24, 2019, during the term of the current license, Metro convened a community conversation to solicit input from residents and businesses around the facility, provide information about Metro's authorization process, and provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed license term extension. Metro staff were joined by representatives from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (for land use and zoning concerns), and Portland Bureau Of Transportation's traffic enforcement division.

The conversation was a constructive one that aired some unresolved concerns while acknowledging that progress continues to be made at the site. Wayne Jackson, General Manager for WestRock, noted that the company had taken several steps to improve its operations and clean-up the site and surrounding areas, including partnering with the Lents Neighborhood Livability Association to clean areas outside of the facility. Mr. Jackson also stated that WestRock is working through the city permitting and variance processes to build a 14-foot-high steel wall that will enclose much of its property in an effort to keep noise, litter and dust inside its operations.

¹ Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19

Some neighbors voiced concerns about the facility's operating hours and exhaust from vehicles entering and exiting the facility, and they also expressed appreciation for the changes that WestRock has implemented and implored the company not to wait for Metro to set conditions in a license to reduce the impacts of its operations on neighbors. Metro staff will continue to monitor the facility for compliance with the terms of its license.



Community Conversation, April 24, 2019 – Wattles Boys & Girls Club

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of amended Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19A to align its term with those of other similar facilities. Approval of the proposed amended license will extend WestRock's current authorization for 4 years and three months. The license will expire on September 30, 2023. A copy of the proposed license is attached for your signature.

ATTACHMENT
JD