

SWA RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY EXPANSION

UNINCORPORATED PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA) is a governmental agency created by the Florida Legislature to manage the processing and disposal of solid waste. UDS assisted the SWA with a significant expansion to their Renewable Energy Facilities (REF). During the planning and permitting stages for the new mass burn facility REF 2, UDS facilitated a public outreach effort for the expansion, with the goal of informing and educating the public about the SWA's waste reduction operations, and worked to answer questions and mitigate concerns regarding the proposed expansion. UDS developed the outreach program and, in conjunction with the SWA and their consultants, implemented it over several years. The program included meetings with elected officials in the governing and surrounding jurisdictions, neighboring residential communities and environmental organizations. UDS developed graphics for paper and digital presentations, and documented all public outreach efforts. As a result of the public outreach effort, the State and local approvals process went smoothly with no formal objections to the expansion raised.

UDS also assisted with the preparation of portions of the application for construction and operation of the REF under the State of Florida Power Plant Siting Act, working with the SWA and their consultants to address local and state comments during the review process. During the design and permitting phases, UDS reviewed design and construction plans prepared by the design/build/operate team for compliance with local regulations and the commitments made during the public outreach and permitting processes.

The SWA broke ground on REF 2 in April 2012 and the state-of-the-art facility was opened in June 2015. During the construction phase, UDS performed inspections of the landscape and irrigation installations to confirm that they were compliant with the permitted plans.

REF 2 is the first of its kind to be built in the United States in more than 15 years and has the capacity to burn more than 3,000 tons of post recycled solid waste and generate 90 megawatts of clean renewable electricity per day. The construction cost for the new facility was \$670 million.

Client: Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

Engineer: Arcadis

