

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to evaluate legally viable options for methane gas extraction from existing Miami-Dade County landfills and future landfills, and provide a written report and recommendations to the Board within 90 days

Resolution No. R-194-25

A substitute was presented and forwarded to the BCC with a favorable recommendation at the February 10, 2025 Infrastructure, Innovation & Technology Committee.

This substitute differs from the original item printed on the January 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole agenda to require the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to also provide in the written report to this Board, an evaluation of other projects/facilities in Florida, such as Medley Landfill methane gas project and progress, and Nopetro plant in Vero Beach or the New River RNG project, including (a) permitting time and agencies, (b) capital costs, (c) operations/maintenance costs, and (d) increased cost per ton to municipalities and the unincorporated municipal service area, including a breakdown by commission district.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

Please note any items checked.

- _____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
- _____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- _____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- _____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- _____ **Budget required**
- _____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**
- _____ **Statement of social equity required**
- _____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing**
- _____ **No committee review**
- _____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____)** to approve
- _____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)
2-19-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-194-25

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE LEGALLY VIABLE OPTIONS FOR METHANE GAS EXTRACTION FROM EXISTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LANDFILLS AND FUTURE LANDFILLS, AND PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD WITHIN 90 DAYS

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste ("DSWM" or the "Department"), processes and disposes of approximately 2.4 million tons of solid waste annually, arising from both the solid waste collected by the Department as well as waste from 15 municipalities that have long-term disposal contracts; and

WHEREAS, DSWM operates (i) three landfills, (ii) three Regional Transfer Stations, and (iii) the Resources Recovery Facility ("RRF") for waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, the RRF, located in Doral, Florida ("Doral"), began commercial operations in 1982 and was originally sited on 100 acres of land, including the adjacent ash fill; and

WHEREAS, the RRF was the keystone of Miami-Dade County's (the "County") solid waste system, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and resulting in an average annual processing of over 1,000,000 tons of waste produced in the County; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1998, the Board passed and adopted Resolution No. R-233-98 to study the feasibility of recovering methane gas from the NW 58th Street Landfill to supplement generation of electricity at the RRF; and

WHEREAS, On October 5, 2021, the Board passed and adopted Resolution No. R-915-21 approving the award for construction services for a South Dade Landfill gas system expansion, which included installation of landfill gas (“LFG”) components such as gas extraction wells, header pipes, lateral pipes, control valves, condensate drains, and a blower/flare station; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2023, a fire occurred at the RRF, and, except for tire shredding, the RRF has remained inoperable since that date; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”), passed and adopted Resolution No. R-822-23 pertaining to solid waste management, which among other things directed the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee “to negotiate any documents necessary for the existing RRF not to be restored and reactivated at the current Doral site, subject to Board approval”; and

WHEREAS, LFG is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills; and

WHEREAS, methane gas is approximately 50 percent of the composition of LFG; and

WHEREAS, methane gas is a potent greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, as published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, municipal solid waste landfills were the third largest source of human-related methane gas emissions in the United States, and accounted for 14.4 percent of methane gas emissions in 2022; and

WHEREAS, LFG can be captured and converted for use as a renewable energy resource; and

WHEREAS, such LFG capture (i) reduces odors and other hazards associated with LFG emissions, (ii) prevents methane gas from contributing to smog and global climate change, and (iii) can generate revenue for the County; and

WHEREAS, such methane gas extraction revenue can be returned to DSWM and used by the Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. This Board incorporates the foregoing recitals.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate legally viable options for methane gas extraction from all County landfills and all future landfills.

Section 3. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report to this Board for consideration within 90 days of the adoption of this resolution. Such written report should include, but not be limited to, recommendations to implement, augment, and monetize such methane gas extraction from County landfills and future landfills, >>an evaluation of other projects/facilities in Florida, such as Medley Landfill methane gas project and progress, and Nopetro plant in Vero Beach or the New River RNG project, including (a) permitting time and agencies, (b) capital costs, (c) operations/maintenance costs, and (d) increased cost per ton to municipalities and the unincorporated municipal service area ("UMSA"), including a breakdown by commission district,<<¹ and any other information relevant

¹ The differences between the substitute and the original item are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

to the recommendations. The completed report shall be placed on an agenda for the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	absent
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of February, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

dsh

David Stephen Hope
Angela Benjamin