

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CEDAR HILLS 10,000 SCFM High BTU Project Maple Valley, Washington

Cedar Hills Landfill

- Cedar Hills is a county landfill serving King County, Washington
- Total area 920 acres
- Over 1,000 gas collection wells
- > 800,000 tons waste added per year
- Flowing ~ 10,000 SCFM landfill gas



Interstate/LDC Pipeline Quality Issues

Northwest Pipeline spec:

- 985 BTU/cu ft
- <3% total Inerts</p>
- <0.2% Oxygen

Typical spec for total Inerts is 33% higher



High BTU Development Parameters

Landfill Gas accepted as normally collected

Maximum equipment redundancy

Use INGENCO dual-fuel electric generators for tail gas



ORIGINAL DESIGN





Initial Startup – MAY 2009

Worked through normal start-up issues

H2S removal and compressor issues

Additional membranes added for CO2 removal to handle volume



Early Operation

Media in NRU began degrading and turning into dust upon startup

- Discovered low PH condensate downstream of De-Oxo converter and corroded heat exchanger
- Added amine and water injection to control PH



INTERIM SOLUTION





NRU FAILURE

- Extra filtration installed to trap dust
- In first 3 months media replenishment required
- Consequential failures caused additional dusting and eventual total plant shutdown and replacement of all media



Filters changed again and again and . . .

Bought so many filters manufacturer ran out of components



Missing media found!







FIRST 22 MONTHS OUTPUT





Failure analysis and repair plan

Outside expert evaluations

Re-evaluated media alternatives

Existing NRU vendor guaranteed media performance contingent on reconfiguration



Implementation

- Relocated oxygen removal catalyst and TSA dryer downstream of NRU at request of NRU vendor to preclude any possibility of acid-gas damage to media
- Disassembled and cleaned entire plant back end
- NRU vendor implemented software and hardware modifications to reduce possibility of media fluidization



FINAL SOLUTION



August 2012 Restart

NRU vendor provided good support for re-commissioning and improved control system for easier operation

Overall monthly performance much better than initial operating period



Results Much Improved 21% greater monthly output





Restart Results

Methane recovery appears consistent but below expected original pro forma

No degradation of media has been observed to date but will be monitored closely



Conclusions

Turnkey EPC contract no guarantee of success

Cause of original media failure not fully resolved

Strong vendor commitment critical

Reconfigured plant working well





