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Orrington Waste-to-Energy Facility Receives Grant to Clean Up Plant

Trash baler system will compact existing waste in the facility

ORRINGTON, ME – Eagle Point Energy Center (EPEC) received news this month of a grant to help clean up the plant. The \$650,000 grant from Penobscot County will be used to purchase a trash baler system, which will be able to compact nearly 8,000 tons of trash that is currently in the facility. Officials say that is the next step to getting the trash incinerator operational.

“The plan is to get the plant operational, first and foremost,” said Dan Cashman, spokesman for EPEC. “Returning the plant to basic operation is the goal right now as it will ease the pressure that exists in Maine with regards to solid waste management. Cleaning up the existing waste in the plant is a necessary step toward that goal. This grant will allow EPEC to compact the waste that is in the plant, and then use that waste once the plant resumes operations.”

The baler is expected to cost about \$950,000, and will be owned by the Town of Orrington. The grant from Penobscot County comes from federal funds in the American Rescue Plan Act.

“By cleaning up the waste, repairs that are necessary for restarting the plant can move forward,” said Cashman. “EPEC is excited about the future and is very pleased with the progress of working with partners in Orrington and Penobscot County.”

EPEC acquired the waste-to-energy facility formerly known as the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) earlier this month with the goal to re-open the facility for the processing and recycling of municipal solid waste.

The plant had stopped accepting municipal solid waste last May, causing municipalities to divert material to area landfills. The waste that is currently in the facility will be compacted in the spring and used upon restart. The company is currently assessing the facility for required improvements.

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