Questions for Nominee to the MIRA Board of Directors

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January 22, 2019 | 2019-R-0052

Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) (CGS §§ 22A-260A, 22A-261, AND 22a-262)

- MIRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA).

- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members, and the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint two members.

- Three members must represent towns with a population of 50,000 or fewer and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.

- Five members represent the public and must have extensive, high level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.

- Members serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses.

- The governor designates one member to serve as chairperson, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairperson serves at the governor's pleasure. The chairperson, with

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approval of the board, appoints MIRA's president, who supervises MIRA's administrative affairs and technical activities.

Questions

General Operations.

1. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and MIRA are involved in a process to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project, as provided in PA 14-94. DEEP selected the Sacyr Rooney Development Team to modernize MIRA's facility in Hartford. A January 8, 2018 *Hartford Courant* article reports that negotiations with the selected developer stalled do to a disagreement over facility control.

    a. Please elaborate on the nature of the disagreement.

    b. Has MIRA discussed with DEEP what will happen if an agreement is not reached?

2. MIRA's trash-to-energy facility has been nonoperational since early November 2018 when one of its turbines underwent a scheduled shut down for maintenance reasons and its second turbine failed. Both turbines had to be repaired out of state.

    a. When is it expected that the trash-to-energy facility will be operational again?

    b. How long will it take for the facility to process the waste that MIRA has been storing on site during the shutdown? Will the facility be able to immediately process incoming waste in its incinerators?

3. What is the estimated financial impact of the shutdown in terms of the costs to (a) repair the turbines and (b) dispose of solid waste at other facilities? Will MIRA member municipalities have their tipping fees increased due to the shutdown, and if so, by how much?

4. During the turbine shutdown, MIRA violated its DEEP permit by storing partially processed solid waste in covered containers outside, and DEEP ordered the containers to be moved back inside the facility. MIRA then sought emergency permission from DEEP to store the waste outside on its property. Has DEEP granted MIRA permission to do so? How long will this waste be stored outside?

5. Urban residents believe they have historically been overburdened by the siting of landfills and incinerators in their neighborhoods. What is MIRA doing to alleviate this?

6. What role does the MIRA facility play in managing Connecticut's solid waste and recycling? What impact would shutting it down have?

Solid Waste and Recycling.

1. What do you see as the greatest challenges to effective solid waste management in Connecticut? How can the state overcome them?

2. From your perspective as a municipal public official:

   a. What factors do municipalities take into account when selecting a solid waste disposal or recycling provider?

   b. Do municipalities weigh some factors more heavily than others?

   c. Based on this knowledge, what can MIRA do to encourage more municipalities to contract with it to provide solid waste disposal or recycling services?

3. How prevalent is it that MIRA receives solid waste that is commingled with materials that should be recycled? Related, how much commingling can occur with recyclables before a load becomes contaminated and the materials no longer recyclable?

4. What are the most effective ways to educate residents about proper solid waste disposal and recycling?

5. How effective are the following programs at reducing the amount of material in the waste stream:

   a. unit-based pricing ("Pay-As-You-Throw");
   b. extended producer responsibility, which requires producers to take back their products;
   c. deposit or redemption programs, such as the state's "bottle bill";
   d. single-stream recycling, where recyclables are commingled; and
   e. curbside collection programs for specific materials, such as clothing and textiles.

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