

*NAWTEC Speaker Abstract*

**“BENCHMARKING DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD KEEPING:  
A KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY EVALUATING RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY  
PERFORMANCE OVER TIME”**

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Based on multi-year reviews done at a number of modern Resource Recovery Facilities (RRFs), this paper will recommend benchmarks for several operations parameters and associated documentation in order to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of waste-to-energy facility operational and environmental performance over time.

This can be valuable both to client communities and facility operators. Communities often seek to know how their RRFs measure up against one another in terms of efficiency, environmental compliance, and cost. During this next decade, many communities will begin to face decisions on whether to recontract with the current operator, as twenty (20) year service agreements expire. Operators often seek regulatory relief or are faced with regulatory requirement to update permit documents. In either case, setting performance goals, maintaining a well-organized paper trail, and having these key documents readily available makes it easier both for the communities and the facility operators to evaluate the longer-term operating and environmental performance track record. Establishing and maintaining thorough records on performance, operations practices, and the literally thousands of maintenance actions at modern RRFs, as well as tracking the ongoing stream of environmental reports (stack test, water quality, CEMS, and operator certification) can provide valuable insights. Each document is a snapshot in time; in combination, each can become a key diagnostic tool, particularly in retrospect. Finally, as more refuse processing facilities implement Environmental Management Systems and seek ISO 14000 Certification, keeping documents complete and up to date will ease this process immeasurably.

Mr. Lehman works as a Senior Scientist in the Solid Waste Group of Dvirka And Bartilucci Consulting Engineers, a Division of William F. Cosulich Associates, P.C. Since 1978, Mr. Lehman has held a variety of positions in the environmental arena. He began his career with the USEPA Region II office in New York City (1978–1987), where he started office paper recycling programs, worked on environmental impact statements, and helped manage the federal facilities compliance and RCRA programs. During fourteen (14) years in the waste-to-energy industry, Mr. Lehman did environmental audits and permitting work and helped establish and manage a nationwide environmental management system for a leading waste-to-energy company.