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I don't know about you, but it seems like every day I see news releases on stories relating to plasma arc technology, autoclaves, organics diversion, zero waste, flow control, carbon credits, greenhouse gas, and construction, demolition, and debris management. These are hot topics in our industry. Everyone seems to be looking for that miracle technology or approach that will effectively manage our municipal solid waste, eliminate or reduce our dependence on landfills, and provide the added benefit of energy recovery.

Plasma arc is being marketed heavily by several groups as the "miracle" technology that can achieve these goals. For example, Geoplasma LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jacoby Development, Inc., hopes to construct and operate the largest MSW plasma gasification facility in the world in St. Lucie County, Florida. This facility was originally proposed to process 3,000 tons of trash a day at

10,000° Fahrenheit, yielding syngas that would be used to produce 140 megawatts of electricity. The process also would produce slag for road construction and steam for a nearby industrial facility. However, the facility's capacity was reduced to 1,000 tpd and the latest press releases indicate the scope of the project also may be changing. It remains to be seen whether this privately financed deal, with reported costs in excess \$100 million, can be built for an affordable cost, and operated in compliance with applicable environmental standards and appropriate performance guarantees.

To our north, a much smaller (80 ton per day) pilot facility will use the plasma arc technology in Ontario, Canada. This facility is currently in the startup and testing stage, which will demonstrate whether the facility can meet stringent engineering and economic benchmarks. If this facility is deemed successful, this project may provide solid waste professionals with more definitive information to make intelligent judgments on the merits of the technology and its claims.

I read an Associated Press news report today that Marion, Iowa has received \$150,000 from the state to study the use of plasma arc technology, which they hope will show that a plasma arc facility can make economic sense. Will plasma arc be this "miracle technology" that many are looking for? The solid waste world is watching.

I look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs and talking with you about this and many other relevant issues impacting the Landfill Division.