

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

Room EW41

PLACE:

MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Thompson, Representatives Hartgen, Vander Woude, Anderson, Anderst, Mendive, Chaney, Nate, Cheatham, Horman, Malek, Moon, Scott, Ehardt, Smith, Jordan (Wolf), Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jeff Feeler, US Ecology; Jason Evens, US Ecology; Simon Bell, US Ecology; Natalie Creed, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Lon Stewart, DEQ; Abigail Talboy, Idaho Conservation League; Mark Estess, Eiguren Ellis Public Policy

Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2018. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roy Eiguren, Eiguren Ellis Public Policy, introduced **Jeffrey Feeler**, Chairman, CEO, and President of US Ecology. Mr. Feeler introduced **Simon Bell**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and **Jason Evens**, Vice President and General Manager, of US Ecology Idaho. Mr. Feeler stated that US Ecology is a \$25 billion industry that provides key critical services to industrial clients to dispose of by-products from waste generation sites through transfer, storage and treatment to disposal. The industry is divided into two segments, environmental services/hazardous waste and field/industrial services. Hazardous waste involves waste generation services and industrial services deals with transfer, storage, treatment and disposal of waste. US Ecology has grown by acquiring valuable assets, expanding services, investing in infrastructure and in ability to support customer needs. They have recently relocated their world headquarters to the US Bank Building in Boise and added 90 employees so that they currently have 140-150 Idaho employees, remitting approximately \$25 million in payroll taxes to Idaho. They operate five of the twenty hazardous/non-hazardous waste landfills in North America, which are prime assets and are supported by waste treatment facilities. They provide many recycling options, that have doubled in size since 2012, including thermal desorption, solvent distillation, mobile distillation and selective precipitation.

Jason Evens reported on the their site in Grand View, Idaho, which handles hazardous PCB and low-activity radioactive disposal, and their full-service rail transportation infrastructure support site in Mayfield, ID. Grand View recently celebrated a 10-year anniversary of VPP Star Status (OSHA Partner in Safety and Health). Since 2000, Grand View has disposed of approximately nine million tons of waste. They have a robust waste acceptance criteria at the site, and several analyses are done before taking on a waste stream. Grand View currently has three active landfill cells and is located in the Owyhee desert where there is nearly 3,000 feet of clay, shale and basalt underground and no aquifers. Grand View also treats and disposes of products in landfills, treats metal contaminates and organic chemistries, accepts PVC transformers, removing and draining their fuels, and receive materials in bulk and non-bulk format. Mr. Evens addressed their rail service advising that they own over 200 gondola cars and 14,000 feet of track located on Simco Road in Mayfield, ID. US Ecology conducts annual home hazardous waste roundups and Helping Hands Community Grant Program.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Feeler** replied that US Ecology handles specialized waste coming out of industrialized zones deemed hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency, whereas solid waste put out in front of a residential house usually goes to a local landfill. He also responded to committee questions on infrastructure transportation costs by stating that federal administration changes during the past year, such as increasing weight loads, has helped their business

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lorrie Byerly
Secretary