

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Wisniewski, Representatives Vander Woude, Horman, Scott, Amador, Armstrong (Armstrong), Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Young, Adams, Yamamoto, Chew, Necochea, Nash

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Adams, Nash

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Ehardt called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Necochea** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Sydney Case, the Environment, Energy and Technology Committee's Page, stood before the committee to answer questions. The committee acknowledged her hard work and thanked her for her service.

Roy Eiguren, representing US Ecology, introduced the presenters for the annual committee update.

Jeff Feeler, Chairman and CEO of US Ecology, presented an overview of the company. US Ecology entered into an agreement last week to be bought by Republic Services. This will expand their geographic footprint, their capabilities, products and services, and will provide cross-selling opportunities. He discussed US Ecology's waste solutions segment and field services segment. They are a first responder in emergency and spill response, and in-plant maintenance and remediation. In 2020, they managed over 12,800 emergency responses.

Terry Geis, Senior Vice President of the West Region for US Ecology, presented a local overview of the company. He discussed the Mayfield Rail Transfer Facility, the Grandview facility and the Grandview Treatment and Disposal facility. Contributions US Ecology makes in Idaho include: significant infrastructure investment, employing Idahoans, and capital investments. Tipping fees are paid into the State General Fund, and a portion of the fees help go to the county to maintain Simco Road.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Geis**, explained US Ecology's remote location increases the costs of transportation and logistics. In clarifying why companies would choose to treat waste on-site or off-site, he stated the determining factor would be their ability to contain the contamination on-site safely. He pointed out the logistics and transportation are a determining factor also.

Mr. Feeler, clarified for the committee the benefits of merging US Ecology with Republic Services including: reducing vendors, cross selling opportunities, simplifying operations, and providing a holistic environmental solutions provider. He expressed the opinion that Republic Services did not invest in US Ecology to acquire a new dump site. Mr. Feeler clarified their customer base is very diverse with no customer over 5% of the companies revenues. Most customers on the waste side are concentrated in general manufacturing, steel mills and chemicals. Most of the materials coming from clean up customers are soil-based. Often times they are coming from early industrial area sites. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is US Ecology's primary regulator, and monitors their waste streams, they are also enforcing Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Mr. Feeler clarified that US Ecology is taking in waste streams that are inorganic and have no other alternative than to be contained. He did share information about the companies new investments in aerosol recycling technology, used to help on the retail side of their business.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Maggie Price
Secretary