In the Matter of:

Public Meeting

Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings March 21, 2024



3200 East Camelback Road, Suite 177 Phoenix, Arizona 85018

PUBLIC MEETING

In the Matter of:

Ecobat Lithium Battery Recycling
Casa Grande RCRA Part B Permit
Pre-Application Public Meeting

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Casa Grande, Arizona March 21, 2024 6:13 p.m.

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(Certified Copy)



Page 2 Page 4 THE PUBLIC MEETING was taken at 6:13 p.m., on 1 batteries at our facility, we need to get a -- what's called a 2 Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Radisson Hotel Casa Grande, 2 Part B permit from these gentlemen here from the Arizona 777 North Pinal Avenue, Casa Grande, Arizona, before TERESA A. 3 3 Department of Environmental Quality. One of the requirements to WATSON, Registered Merit Reporter, and a Certified Reporter in 4 obtain that permit is to have a pre-application meeting. This and for the State of Arizona, County of Maricopa, pursuant to 5 meeting was noticed in several different ways, including two the Rules of Civil Procedure. 6 different newspapers, and in English and in Spanish, and on the 7 radio. 8 PARTICIPANTS: 8 And we're glad that you guys are here, and we're Mr. Eric Knowles, Plant Manager 9 also glad that we're clearly not -- not a particular -- not a Mr. Brett Horton, VP Operations and Technical 10 particularly controversial source. Otherwise, people would be 10 Mr. Mike Buckantz, Environmental Technical Support 11 beating down our doors. So we feel pretty good about that. Mr. Mark Hoffman, Environmental Director 11 Ms. Jennifer Fieber, Associates Environmental, Consultant 12 Before I turn it over to Eric, I will let you 12 13 guys know that we are transcribing the meeting today. So when 13 14 the time comes at the end for questions -- and we'll be taking 14 15 questions. We'll provide those responses in the application 15 16 document that we'll submit to ADEQ. So please, only one speaker 16 17 at a time, and if you do ask a question at the end, please state 17 18 your name and affiliation, and make your comment or ask your 18 19 question, and then we'll be sure to record that. So Teresa here 19 20 can get that all done for us. 20 21 And we appreciate your time this evening, and 21 22 hopefully we'll make good use of it. And with that, Eric 22 23 Knowles, who is the plant manager here for the lithium facility. 23 24 MR. KNOWLES: Thanks, Mike. 24 25 25 So here's a little overview of the agenda Page 3 Page 5

PROCEEDINGS

1 2

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MR. BUCKANTZ: Well, thank you for coming this

evening. I'm Mike Buckantz with Ecobat, and we have some others

in the room that Eric will introduce. We're here to talk about

urlithium battery recycling facility that's going up here in

Casa Grande, and it's just now recently become operational. The

purpose of the plant is, as the name suggests, to recycle

lithium batteries.

There's a growing population of lithium batteries

11 out there in everything from, you know, lawn mowers to laptops,
12 and certainly in electrical vehicles, and as those batteries
13 become an increasing portion of the battery population, they're
14 going to need to be recycled, and we are trying to fill the need
15 for those recycling services so that we can take those
16 batteries, as Eric will explain, shred them, separate them into
17 some of their material components.

Then we'll turn around and sell to manufacturers,
who will most likely turn them back into a lithium battery. And
that process will be a lot more effective from an environmental
standpoint to -- and especially in the sense of not having to
mine lithium material to make batteries in the future, similar
to the way lead acid batteries are a closed-loop recycling
system.

We're here tonight because in order to store

1 tonight. So we'll -- we'll start by introducing the staff.

2 We'll discuss the operations of the Ecobat Solutions Recycling

3 Facility. We'll talk about location, operations. We'll talk

4 about the RCRA Part B permit application process and the

5 operations that are subject to the permit requirements. So this6 will be covered in the slide.

7 Safety, environmental protection features that we 8 have, other facility and environmental permits, and then public 9 participation will be at the end. So there will be some links 10 at the end that I'll -- that I'll put down that you can jot down 11 and/or take a picture of, and then we'll have a public comment

So I am Eric Knowles. I'm the plant manager for our facility here in Casa Grande. We have Mark Hoffman in the back. He's our environmental director. I have Mike Buckantz

16 who was just up there. He's our technical support,

17 environmental. And Jennifer Fieber, she's in the back. She's

18 an associate environmental consultant. We have Brett Horton,

19 our VP of Operations. So he's here to support us, also.

20 So here's a site location. This is an aerial

21 view. We're on 1474 North VIP Boulevard. Approximately 10

22 acres on the site there. It's kind of hard to see, but we've

23 got the storage areas outlined that we'll be talking about here.

24 Here's a -- here's a picture of the front.

25 There's the pre-application meeting sign that we posted out



25

12 period, so...

Page 8

Page 9

Page 6

1 front there for everybody to -- to either email or call, make

2 comments and let them know of this meeting date here, so...

3 So here's the general concept that we'll be --

4 that we'll be going through. The first stage will be

5 collection. So there's a process to collect the different

6 batteries. So we're trying to recycle lithium-ion batteries.

7 We will take those batteries, and then depending on what type of

8 batteries they are, we could potentially need to discharge or

9 dismantle them based on what state they come in.

10 So if -- if they are a larger ESS module, we

11 might have to break it down a little bit to get it through the

12 process. If they come in fully charged, we might need to

13 discharge that battery to put it back into the grid. We could

14 even potentially use that on site. So we would discharge,

15 diagnose, dismantle, if needed, and then after that point, we

16 can take those batteries and we can run them through the

shredding process. And that's where we would begin to break

18 them down and then reprocess or refine the minerals out of those

19 batteries.

1

20 After we crush the batteries, we shred them.

21 They will go through a separations process where we will take

22 the black mass out of the batteries, and we'll put it in a bag.

23 We'll take the copper, the aluminum and the plastics, and those

24 are all payables or streams that we'll have that we can sell

25 back to the market.

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1 noise that you can hear outside of the building. You actually

2 have to walk through the door, walk into the building to

3 understand if the plant's running or not.

And other than that, there's very -- there's

5 very -- there's no dust, hardly any dust that comes out of

6 the -- out of the process either, so environmentally friendly.

7 It's good.

8 Here's a few examples of some of the -- some of

9 the devices that we'll have. We'll have -- we'll have

10 containers that are similar to those, those orange containers

11 there that we'll store batteries in, and that's part of this

12 process, is getting approved to be able to store batteries on

13 the site.

14 When the batteries come in, they'll go through a

15 really extensive process of inspection when they arrive on site,

16 and then they will get put into the appropriate storage area,

depending on the state at which they arrive and the type of

18 battery they are. So we take a thermal camera, we will -- we

19 will inspect them to check and monitor the temperature and make

20 sure that they're okay. Anything that's questionable, we'll

21 probably run right through the process immediately. If it's

22 not -- if it's -- if it's in a good state, we can move it to the

23 appropriate storage area and get it ready for processing when

24 the time comes.

25 We have thermal cameras that are in the -- in

1 the -- in the building that are -- that are positioned and

2 pointing at these storage areas. So we have 24-hour coverage of

3 the storage areas, and we have a monitoring system that will --

4 that will notify us if those -- if we have any thermal event in

5 those storage areas. So if it's 10:00 p.m., nobody's in the

6 building and I have a -- have a fire that's happening, the

camera will pick it up, and it will notify me first, and then I

8 can react, and we can -- we can move in. In addition to that,

we will have a detailed monitoring process where we inspect

10 these areas every day. We log them and we track those

11 temperatures, so...

12 Here's a few other examples of -- these are our

13 facilities in the UK and in Germany of what the site will look

14 like. So batteries -- batteries come in. This is a device in

15 the upper left that we can -- actually have -- say Lucid's

16 having an EV battery that's getting ready to run away. We can

17 take that device. We can run over there. We can put it in

18 there. We can seal it up. We can bring it back to our

19 facility, and we can process it, and we can transport it safely

20 over the road.

21 The building in the middle, they run batteries in

22 there, and that's where they're going to store them and keep

23 them -- keep them out of the weather. Yeah.

24 Bottom right there, it's a team of people

25 actually dismantling some EVs there. That's the EV required to

The dark circle or dark square there is where we 2 will live at our site. Eventually, we can take that black mass 3 off, we can go to hydromet, they can process it further, get it 4 down to the base minerals there, and then put it back into

5 the -- into the battery life cycle, so... 6 So some of the features that we -- that we have

7 at our processing facility is we use inert gas. So we're going 8 to use nitrogen, and we're going to shred under water -- or not

9 under water -- with water, to mitigate the risk of potential

10 thermal runaway. So the nitrogen will make the environment that

11 the batteries are getting -- getting shredded inert so that the

12 fire risk is reduced. The water helps with that, also. 13 It's a closed-loop water system, so at this point

14 we're water negative. We're actually adding -- having to add

15 water into the system to keep the process going. So we won't

16 be -- we won't be bleeding any water into the wastewater system.

17 It will be -- it will be a process where we'll actually use

18 water in small quantities, not very much.

19 We have emissions control. So we have wet 20 scrubbers on the shredding system, and we have -- we have a

21 baghouse on the separation system. So we'll collect any of the

22 VOC emissions, and we'll be able to get any of the particulates

23 out of the shredding system using the baghouse.

The operation is indoors. So we're going to run 24 25 indoors. It's -- when the plant is running, there's very little



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1 perform that work, so...

2 MR. HOFFMAN: And I note on those boxes, they 3 have certain requirements in Europe. They have -- they're a

4 little bit of ahead of us, as they legislate a lot in Europe.

5 So to move a battery that could be damaged or have a thermal

6 issue, you have to have a certain certification, and so the box

7 that's on the top left actually is certified in Europe. It's

8 not certified here because there isn't a certification

9 necessarily required. I think we'll see the legislation go that

10 direction, but it is a really valuable service that we offer, in

11 Europe especially, from a community perspective.

12 If there's ever a hot battery or if somebody ever 13 calls, the ability to kind of remove that from the public and

14 bring it to an area where we're able to handle that battery,

15 because once they start getting hot, unless you submerge them

16 under water, they typically don't -- you know, they typically

17 don't reverse.

18 MAYOR MCFARLAND: I'm sorry. This is Mayor Craig

19 McFarland. I was going to hold my questions, but since you're

20 on this piece about Lucid, we've had a couple Lucid fires, and

21 so what's to keep you from having one of those devices at Lucid?

22 MR, HOFFMAN: So we're commercially in

23 conversations with Lucid, and we are continuing to interact with

24 them.

1

25 MAYOR MCFARLAND: And the fire department?

1 shredders.

2 So we have the first stage of shredding where we 3 cut it down to one-inch shred, and then we have a second stage

4 of shredding where we cut it down into 5/8ths-inch shred, and

5 then it will move down the conveyor. It will split off, and at

6 that point we're just starting to try to liberate the different

7 oils from the batteries so that we can separate them in the

8 shredding -- in the separations process.

9 So this is -- this is a rendering over here on 10 the right of the separations process. So, basically, we're just

11 using vacuum or suction. So we're pulling the dried shred

12 through the process, and we're screening out the black mass at

13 the first stage, and then we start to remove the metals by

14 density. So the heaviers come out first, and then so we'll get

15 the copper out, then we'll get the aluminum, then we'll get the

16 plastic out, and they'll all each go into their individual bags.

17 Then we'll check those bags for quality. We'll give them an

18 asseting, and we'll find a customer for them and put them back

19 on the market, so...

So final products. So they're packaged andshipped in SuperSacks. They placed on the pallets, and they'll

22 go loaded on trucks. Not a very complicated process.

So some details about the RCRA Part B. The tuture storage of the spent lithium-ion batteries and lithium

25 coating -- containing materials are subject to hazardous waste

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MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. So we're working with the 1 permitting provi

 $2\,$ fire marshal right now, also, and we're going to partner with

3 his HAZMAT team to actually do some controlled burns and

4 understand what those lithium fires and how to react and what's5 effective in that process. So we've actually purchased a couple

6 F500 fire extinguishers, which are lithium specific, and we're

7 going to go through some training with the fire department and

8 those batteries, and we will probably invite Lucid to that

9 event, also.

MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. That would be great.

11 MR. KNOWLES: So we can build those bridges

12 there.

10

15

13 MAYOR MCFARLAND: If we could all communicate,

14 that would be great.

MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. Yeah. We've been -- with

16 Ryan Pass, so the fire marshal, we've been -- I've been in

17 contact with him quite often, so...

18 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. Well, you have my card,

19 too, so if you need some help in that area, let me know.

20 MR, HOFFMAN: Will do.

21 MR. KNOWLES: So here's a rendering of what the

22 plant looks like. So it's basically -- this is -- this is a

23 shaker table. So we could dump the batteries on the front of

24 the -- front of this -- front of the process here. It will

25 shake. It will feed these conveyor belts that go into

1 permitting provisions and necessitates the submittal of a RCRA2 Part B permit application.

3 So we have three hazardous waste management units

4 that we're proposing. They're going to consist -- one of them's

5 going to consist of a concrete pad that houses four containers.

6 So two of the containers are designated to receive normal-risk

7 materials. These are typically intact batteries that display no

8 damage, bulging or other signs or stress after arrival at the9 facility after the initial inspection. So normal batteries,

10 we're just going to put them in these containers. We're going

11 to reprocess them later.

12 Two containers are -- another two containers are

13 going to be designed and designated to receive at-risk material.

14 So normally, any at-risk materials will be immediately

15 processed. So if we identify that there's a battery that's at

16 risk in the -- and the process is running, what we would

17 typically do is take that battery and just go run it through the

18 process and eliminate the risk.

19 If we're not running the process or it's not the

20 right time or the conditions aren't right, we have two

21 containers that we can put these batteries in, and they're

22 equipped with a submerging system, a fire suppression system, an

23 air-conditioning system, and they're fully contained. The fire

24 department will come up. They have a fire department

25 connection. They can flood the containers, and we can recycle



Page 14 Page 16 1 that water that they put in there back into the process later. 1 MR. KNOWLES: Yes. 2 So they are -- they're very nice units. 2 MAYOR MCFARLAND: -- with you guys? 3 This is a -- this is what one of the normal-risk 3 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. So the monitoring system, 4 containers look like. So those are -- those are fire doors 4 anything that happens, it gets reported to the fire department. 5 there. So they're going to -- they're going to typically be So at-risk materials and HWMU1, materials at risk 6 open. So they will -- they will stay open. They'll have a 6 of thermal runaway will be immediately processed, placed into a 7 fusible link inside of them. If the fusible link -- if there's 7 water bath or be stored in an at-risk storage area. Batteries 8 a fire, it will separate, and the door will shut, containing the 8 identified as thermal runaway will be recorded, and the material 9 fire inside the unit. With that, it also has fire suppression will be isolated away from other containers. If the temperature 10 added to it, and it has -- yeah, just fire suppression. 10 increases from the last measurement, the material will be 11 This is the at-risk unit. So it's enclosed. It 11 re-evaluated and relocated as necessary. 12 has thermal imaging cameras in it. It has fire monitoring. So 12 The normal-risk materials, they're exhibiting 13 it's hooked up to the fire system at the fire -- if the fire 13 normal temperatures that is not intended to be processed in the 14 system is engaged, it will send a notice to the fire department, 14 shift it is received. It will be stored at the normal-risk area 15 and they'll be able to respond. It has the fire department 15 or in an exterior storage area. Batteries identified as thermal 16 connections where they can hook up. We have a -- we have a fire 16 runaway will be recorded and the material will be isolated away 17 hydrant right next to it, and then it is built inside a 17 from other containers, and then if the temperature increases 18 containment. So all that water that goes into the unit will 18 from the last measurement, the material will be re-evaluated and 19 then go into a sump. Then we can recapture that water, put it 19 relocated as necessary. 20 in a tank and use it in the process. 20 So we have -- on the storage areas, 2 and 3 21 So they're positioned in kind of the back corner outdoor storage areas. Material exhibiting normal temperatures 22 of the property. So we had two choices. We had a lumber yard 22 is not intended to be processed in the shift it is received. It 23 on the one side, and we have a paver, concrete paver plant on 23 will be stored in the normal-risk storage area or in one of the 24 the other side. We chose to put those storage units on the side 24 outdoor storage areas. Batteries identified as thermal runway 25 closer to the concrete pavers. 25 will be recorded and the material will be isolated away from the Page 15 Page 17 1 MAYOR MCFARLAND: That's good. It's less 1 containers. Thermal cameras will be used to identify abnormal 2 flammable. 2 temperatures. If abnormal temperature changes are observed, 3 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. And as well, the outdoor 3 material will be immediately processed and relocated to at-risk 4 units, they are -- they are going to be monitored by cameras, 4 storage areas. 5 and they'll have thermal imaging out there, also. So we -- some of the permits that we -- we have a 6 So our building fire mitigation is equipped with 6 conditional use permit. There's the permit number. The City of 7 laser smoke detection, flame detection, and visual/thermal Casa Grande issuing on February 2nd, 2023. We have a valid air 8 cameras with alert systems. We're monitored 24/7. We have a 8 permit. The number. Pinal County Air Quality Control District, 9 sprinkler system activated by the detection systems. We have an 9 November 2nd, '23. 10 array of extinguishers. We have CO2, foam and Lithex. 10 So we have established a website where members of 11 We have inbound staging. Each container must be 11 the public can access documents related to this application 12 checked for temperature using a thermal gun. Each battery 12 process. There it is there. Additional documents will be added 13 container in this area must be monitored periodically. So we 13 throughout the initial permitting process and during future 14 have a -- we have a route that the operators are going to take. 14 permit modifications as necessary. 15 They're going to -- they're going to check. They're going to 15 Today's the pre-application meeting. After the 16 log. They're going to make sure that they're good. 16 application is submitted to and reviewed by Arizona Department 17 So during these checks, if we find something 17 of Environmental Quality, a draft permit will be released for 18 review, and a public meeting will be held. 18 that's out of range or it's getting ready to react, we're going 19 to -- we're going to act accordingly. And we have a tagging 19 So how does ADEQ monitor hazardous waste 20 system that we can make sure that we know what is -- needs to be 20 recycling facilities? ADEQ is concerned with health and safety 21 moved or needs further treatment. 21 issues involving hazardous waste management in Arizona. Under MAYOR MCFARLAND: That's all directly connected 22 22 the RCRA, along with state statutes and codes, ADEQ has the 23 to the city fire department? 23 authority to monitor and direct businesses that may generate,

24 25 MR. KNOWLES: Yes.

MAYOR MCFARLAND: There's a direct connection --

24 transport or dispose of hazardous waste in Arizona. The Waste

25 Programs Division implements state and federal hazardous waste

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1 laws pursuant to the delegation from the EPA. 1 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Recycled. Okay. 2 The Division is responsible for effectively 2 MR. KNOWLES: -- through the process. MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. Other than that, it's 3 implementing standards for the safe generation, management, 3 4 treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Specific 4 not a whole lot of water? 5 responsibilities include: Inspection and compliance. MR. KNOWLES: No. 6 Conducting routine follow-up and initial compliance inspections, 6 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. And then transportation. 7 responding to public complaints and other agency referrals to 7 So right now we're dealing with a lot of new TSMC chemical 8 ensure the hazardous wastes are safely managed and properly 8 companies coming into town, and Lucid is here, a lot of truck 9 disposed. 9 traffic. So I'm trying to work with our local industry. And 10 Permits and plan review. Permitting facilities 10 let me preface. I support what you guys are doing. Okay? So 11 that treat, store or dispose of hazard waste and reviewing 11 I'm not here to not support it. I'm here to support what you're 12 require plans and monitoring reports. 12 doing. I'm just trying to -- trying to understand so that I can 13 help mitigate issues that might come up that I get challenged 13 Outreach and compliance assistance. Educating 14 and reaching out to the regulated community and the general 14 with, especially when it comes to transportation of hazardous public. ADEQ has performed a RCRA facility assessment to 15 materials. 15 16 document the condition of the site prior to the initiation of 16 So we -- so we have a lot of that coming, and so the lithium recycling activities. Once finalized, the RFA will 17 as that approaches, I'm trying to put together a plan, a 17 18 be placed on the Ecobat documents website. 18 transportation plan, and you guys might be helpful in putting 19 that together, because we just spent \$10 million on Thornton 19 We're at public comment period. 20 MR. BUCKANTZ: All right. So if you have any 20 Road expansion, between us and the County, to build this nice, comments or questions that you'd like us to record so that they 21 new five-lane road down to I-8. When Wal-Mart came in, they 21 22 get included as part of the application, please take care of 22 said, oh, yeah. We're going to go down to I-8, and we're going 23 those at this time. And as I said at the beginning, please 23 to go around town. Well, that didn't happen. Okay? So the 24 state your name and affiliation for the record. 24 truckers go where the truckers will go, unless we tell them 25 25 where they need to go. MR. SHAFFER: My name is Randy Shaffer, with the Page 19 Page 21 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. 1 City of Casa Grande Public Works. 1 2 On that closed-loop system, in an emergency, MAYOR MCFARLAND: And so I want to try and build 3 where would the water in that environment with the chemicals and 3 a plan that you guys are part of, and that between the chemical 4 all that have to discharge to? 4 companies and the import -- I'm not worried about the export of 5 MR. KNOWLES: There is a -- there's a containment 5 your product. I'm worried about the import of your product. 6 and a sump that it goes to, and it stays -- it stays inside the 6 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. 7 7 container. MAYOR MCFARLAND: All right. So the product 8 MR. SHAFFER: And then the -- for my -- just so 8 coming into the city. That's the most unstable part. And so 9 I'm clarifying and understanding, on the boxes, they have AC for 9 can we work together to make sure we have a good transportation 10 the heat, so to mitigate the explosion risk on that? 10 plan that is followed and managed and, quite frankly, it's going 11 MR. KNOWLES: Uh-huh. 11 to have to be demanded of the truckers. If you have to pay them 12 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. 12 a premium to come down I-8 and up Thornton, whatever it is, MAYOR MCFARLAND: So my name is Craig McFarland, 13 13 because a lot of times they're paid, you know, to get there 14 Mayor of the City of Casa Grande. So I look at it from a couple 14 quickly, and so we need to make sure we -- because we need to be 15 different perspectives. I'm just curious as to -- I'm going to 15 able to tell our public, hey, we have safe routes of 16 have several questions, so I'll ask one question at a time. 16 transportation of this hazardous material, and it's not going 17 What is your -- what is your potential water use? 17 down Cottonwood to Pinal and through the major part of my city. 18 How much? 18 Okay? Where my citizens live. And so I want to be able to tell 19 MR. KNOWLES: I don't think we have an exact 19 them that we have this plan and that we're going to be putting 20 number yet, but it's very minimal. 20 that together. MAYOR MCFARLAND: Just if you happen to have a 21 21 That's probably my biggest concern, and you guys 22 fire or something, can you recycle that --22 are just one piece of it. But again, I want to support all of MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. If we have a fire and we 23 my -- all of our industry. I want to support your process, 23 24 have to use any water that we use in these storage units, we'll 24 because I think it's important, and I think it -- you know, in 25 the future, it is going to be, you know, the future of recycling 25 be recycling --

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1 for lithium batteries. And lithium batteries are not going 2 away. 3 So that being said, I'll let you answer that

6 You're definitely speaking to the choir on this 7 one. In fact, one of the requirements that that ADEQ has in 8 this application is for us to develop a traffic pattern and to 9 educate the truckers on that traffic pattern, with an emphasis 10 on avoiding places like schools, hospitals, what I think of as

11 sensitive receptors and we can certainly share our thoughts and 12 accommodate your thoughts into that before we submit this

13 application. And I'll suggest we find a time to get together to

14 go over that so we can find a mutually-agreeable traffic pattern

15 so that we only have do that one time in the context of this 16 permit application.

17 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Yeah. And I would love to sit 18 down with NRS, too. NRS is a logistics transportation -- high-19 end chemical transportation company. They're building a new 20 depot right next to Kohler, and that depot isn't too far from 21 where you guys are at. And so between all of us, we could come 22 up with a real plan, and we'd be happy to mark that route, and 23 then with your help, we could, you know, make sure that the

MAYOR MCFARLAND: Well, especially since we're 3 starting to develop all these TSMC suppliers. I mean, we have 4 question, and then I just have one more question. MR. BUCKANTZ: Mr. Mayor, I'll take that one.

4 high-end hydrogen peroxide. We've got all kinds of different 5 chemicals that are being produced or going to be produced here 6 in Casa Grande, and I'm trying to get ahead of it so that before

7 it's manufactured, before we're there, before it's coming into 8 Cottonwood and up my -- you know, Pinal Avenue, which is right

9 in the heart of our town, we -- let's -- we have a conversation. 10 I want to include the industry. I want the

11 industry to be part of the solution, not to be a part of the 12 problem, and so I'm trying -- like I said, I'm trying to make 13 sure we're collaborating and working together on it. I'm not 14 here against it. I'm here to help make sure we can make it 15 happen.

16 MR. BUCKANTZ: Very well.

1 Department does consider.

17 MAYOR MCFARLAND: So that's my goal. I'm very 18 pro business, very pro, you know, industrial development. We've 19 done a lot of it here in Casa Grande over the last eight years 20 of my mayorship. So it's important to me that we make sure we can continue it and make sure that it happens.

22 My only last other concern is in your process, 23 are you thinking of forward -- and you probably are -- as these 24 EVs and the EV batteries, which are massive, are not -- are 25 different than your computer batteries, right?

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You know, like I said, we just spent a lot of 2 money on Thornton interchange, and we're spending another about 2

3 5 million on the northern piece that takes it all the way up to

24 truckers use that route. That's the key is to really make sure

4 Cottonwood, which then would incorporate where you guys would

5 come out on VIP and the Gila River Highway -- or the 84,

6 Highway 84, and then come south to Thornton, because Thornton

7 is -- should be our truck route. That should be our truck route 8 exiting our industrial park.

9 MR. BUCKANTZ: Well, we'll reach out and try to 10 schedule something in the very near future, because we're 11 getting to a point where we're hoping to submit this

12 application --

25 that it gets used.

1

13 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Yeah, and I don't want to slow 14 you guys down.

15 MR. BUCKANTZ: -- in the relatively near future, 16 but it's a timely discussion, and we can certainly get with you

17 probably in the month of April to see what will work best. 18 MAYOR MCFARLAND: All right. That will be great.

19 You have my cell phone number and my email, so...

20 MR. BAER: (Inaudible.)

COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I can't hear you 21 22 back here.

MR. BAER: The RCRA Part Bs do require 23 24 transportation management plans, which he already covered. So

25 no. Absolutely a valid concern, and that's something the

1 MR. KNOWLES: Uh-huh. Yeah.

MAYOR MCFARLAND: They're massive. And so as 3 they come offline, is your system -- is your system prepared to

4 handle that kind of -- this is just -- this is a personal

5 guestion now from me. Is it prepared to handle that? Because I

6 think that's going to be important down the road. It's kind of

7 like I tried to get our gas stations to put in charging

8 stations, because I think, you know, they're behind the eight --

9 you know, they're way behind in terms of anticipating this

10 electric vehicle push that's coming and being able to charge

11 America, if you will. Pardon the use of somebody else's name.

12 But how can we make sure that the batteries as they come offline

13 and come off...

14 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. We're looking at a 15 multi-phased approach to this.

16 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Because it has to be a 17 different process. I mean, these things are massive compared to 18 what you guys are processing today.

19 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. We have the advantage, too, 20 with Germany and the UK of actually being a little bit ahead of 21 us, too, to learn how to process those, but yeah, we do have a 22 plan in place to scale up and handle bigger and better things.

23 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. Again, that was just 24 my -- that's a personal question, so...

25 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah.



Page 26 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Okay. Yeah. I appreciate it. 1 2 So thank you. Thank you. 3 MR. BUCKANTZ: Thank you. 4 MR. BAER: Terry Baer, ADEQ. 5 What is your planned hours of operation? Are 6 they going to be, like, a Monday through Friday, one shift? Are 7 you going to be kind of 24/7? 8 MR. KNOWLES: I guess it's what the market 9 dictates and what's available to us. Right now, it's going to 10 be Monday through Friday, eight hours. We could add a second 11 shift. We could add a third shift if there's enough out there 12 to work, so ... 13 MR. BAER: So along that line, with the 14 transportation management, what is the expectation if a load 15 tries to deliver after hours? Is it they have to wait and come 16 back or is there going to be a staging? 17 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah, we probably have 18 shipping/receiving day shift only. If we did run a second or a 19 third shift, it would probably just be the production. 20 MR. BAER: So the only reason I bring it up is 21 because we have seen that's where the most risk tends to be, is 22 it's loads that you're going to receive before you have a chance 23 to inspect them. 24 MR. KNOWLES: Uh-huh. 25 MR. BAER: You know, so let's say a trailer is Page 27 1 showing up on a Saturday, and you're not going to put eyes on it 2 until Monday morning. 3 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah. 4 MR. BAER: So just something that we have seen 5 for the Department that is something to be aware of as you kind

Page 28 1 manage and what we will manage is when they're -- when they're 2 scheduled to arrive at our facility and, you know, basically 3 make it inefficient or uncomfortable for them to schedule their 4 time such that they're not arriving just on time. MR. BAER: I mean, you mentioned about having the 6 cameras, the thermal cameras, and I'm just -- is it possible to 7 have a staging area for, like, loads during off hours that may 8 be on camera. Again, and the Mayor's point, I mean, then that 9 way you don't have to worry about --10 MAYOR MCFARLAND: That's not a bad idea. 11 MR. BAER: -- someone parking on the side of 12 Pinal Avenue or, you know, something like that. Like I said --MAYOR MCFARLAND: Still thermal, even inside a 13 14 truck. 15 MR. BUCKANTZ: And, Terry, I think that that's a 16 discussion we would like to have with you guys --17 MR. BAER: Sure. 18 MR. BUCKANTZ: -- about what you guys think is a 19 reasonable amount of time for staging. We do have a truck bay 20 that can hold, I think, five, six --21 MR. HORTON: Eight. 22 MR. BUCKANTZ: -- eight trucks -- thank you, 23 Brett -- at a time that, you know, we could certainly consider 24 having thermal cameras pointing in that direction, and so as we 25 go through this process, I think we should engage you guys in a

Page 29

6 of move forward in developing that.

7 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah, definitely.

8 MR. BUCKANTZ: And, Terry, our other facilities 9 that process other types of batteries here in the United States,

10 this is an issue that we recognized, and basically, we do it on

11 an appointment basis. People can't just come and show up.

12 MR. BAER: Okay.

MR. BUCKANTZ: They have to make an appointment 13 14 and schedule inbound trucks.

15 MR. BAER: That's really good.

16 MAYOR MCFARLAND: Mike, but can you guys help

17 them manage that a little bit? Because I see Terry's point is

18 that the trucker picks up a load, and he leaves, and he's

19 delayed or he doesn't get here in time, and then it sits across

20 from Wal-Mart in a dirt lot waiting for you guys to open, and

21 then something ignites and we have a small disaster on our

22 hands.

23 MR. BUCKANTZ: Well, I don't think that I could

24 promise you that we can control what a trucker, especially an

25 independent trucker, is doing with their truck. What we can

1 discussion as to how you would like to see that managed and 2 whether you would allow us to use that as a staging area for off

3 hours or --

4 MR. BAER: Okay.

5 MR. BUCKANTZ: -- unscheduled deliveries.

MR. BAER: Yeah. Absolutely. I mean, the

7 Department wants to work with you guys as to what's effective.

8 And so, again, glad to -- the Mayor mentioned Lucid, but Nikola

9 is over in Eloy as well, and unfortunately, the Department has

10 been involved with several fires at that facility, and right now

11 the plan is is just pull the vehicle off to the side and just

12 kind of let it burn, you know, until it kind of burns out. So

13 that's generally when we see the public, you know, get

14 concerned.

15 So glad to have you guys here. Glad to see these

16 boxes from the UK, because obviously this is not something that

17 I've heard of any consideration in any of the fires that the

18 Department has been involved in. So it's a step in the right

19 approach for where I think the industry is going.

MAYOR MCFARLAND: Yeah. And again, we're here in

21 support. We want to make sure we're all together. Appreciate

22 the State being here, too, and you guys at Ecobat and, you know,

23 the City being here as well. So it's important, I think, for

24 all of us to make sure we're communicating and make sure --

25 because this is obviously kind of new territory, I think.



Page 30	Page 32
1 You know, recycling is not new, but recycling,	as available to hope to find someone that is interested.
2 you know, these kinds of batteries and then especially the size	2 MR. BAER: And that was where my curiosity was,
3 of that are coming. I mean, you guys are just scratching the	3 is typically, you know, most of these are LDPEs, you know,
4 surface, because if we go if GM goes 35 percent or 50 percent	4 low-density polyethylene.
5 or 60 percent of electric vehicles, the wave is coming. So	5 MR. HORTON: Yeah.
6 MR. BUCKANTZ: We certainly hope so.	6 MR. BAER: And so, one, they're really bad for
7 MAYOR MCFARLAND: We need and that's the	7 shredders, because they tend to clog up the system
8 biggest concern I hear from people with electric battery	8 MR. HORTON: Yeah. Extremely quick.
9 electric vehicles is what do we do with the batteries. That is	9 MR. BAER: Yeah. So the question was is, like,
10 the single biggest concern that I hear from my constituents when	10 can we move it forward or if it shredded, then you have to
11 I talk to them about EV and where we're going with EV. So, you	11 characterize it and see if it's characteristic for anything
12 know, it's in our face here. I mean, we we've got 2,500	12 obviously being mixed with the black mass and everything else.
13 employees working for an electric vehicle company that builds a	13 So that's what I'm trying to understand
14 nice car, but it has a giant battery in it. It's a giant	14 MR. HORTON: So it goes all the way through our
15 battery.	15 process, so and we work to downsize that really effectively,
16 MR. KNOWLES: Yeah.	16 and then with the different separation equipment, we separate
17 MAYOR MCFARLAND: It's three-quarters of the	17 that from all of the metals.
18 weight of the car.	18 MR. BAER: Okay.
19 MR. BAER: The other question I had is I love the	19 MR. HORTON: But then that is that is an
20 process diagram. I believe that's the first time I've seen it.	20 outlet stream of a finely shredded light, light plastic.
21 Is there any waste generation coming out of that let me kind	21 MR. BAER: Yeah. Okay.
22 of caveat that a little bit. So typically, outside of the EV	22 MR. HORTON: As an outlet stream.
23 vehicles, most lithium cells are typically taped or packed in	23 MR. BAER: Thank you.
24 baggies, stuff like that. Is does your process address that?	24 MR. BUCKANTZ: Any others?
25 Does that all become waste as a part of the shredding? I just	25 ADEQ, with your permission, if you're comfortable
Page 31	Page 33
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Page 34
     1 STATE OF ARIZONA
                                                                                                                                                               ss.
     2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA )
                                                                        BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing public meeting was
     4
                      taken before \operatorname{me}; that I was then and there a Certified Reporter
                   in and for the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona; that the
                     proceeding was taken down by me in stenographic shorthand and
                   thereafter transcribed under my direction; and that the
                      foregoing 33 pages contain a full, true and accurate transcript
                   of all proceedings and testimony had and adduced upon the taking
                     of said public meeting, all to the best of my skill and ability.
                                                                          I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to or % \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\}
                     employed by any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way
                       interested in the outcome hereof.
10
                                                                         DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 29th day of April
                   2024.
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12
                                                                                                                                                                                        /s/ Teresa A. Watson
13
                                                                                                                                                                                    TERESA A. WATSON, RMR
14
                                                                                                                                                                                    Certified Reporter
                                                                                                                                                                                    Certificate No. 50876
 15
16
                                                                         I CERTIFY that GRIFFIN GROUP INTERNATIONAL has
17
                       complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206
18
                    (J)(1)(g)(1) through (6).
19
                                                                                                                                                                                        /s/ Pamela A. Griffin
20
                                                                                                                                                                                   GRIFFIN GROUP INTERNATIONAL
                                                                                                                                                                                    Registered Reporting Firm
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