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Waste-to-Energy Industry Renews Alliance with OSHA

November 27, 2007 (Washington, D.C.) -- The Integrated Waste Services Association (IWSA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today renewed their Alliance to further promote safety and health programs throughout the waste-to-energy industry. The partnership will continue to highlight waste hauler safety through the “SAFETY: DO IT FOR LIFE” campaign.

“Today’s renewal of the Alliance agreement ensures that IWSA and OSHA will continue the important work of promoting safety and preventing injuries for all those who conduct business at waste-to-energy facilities,” said Mark Weidman, President of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

OSHA Assistant Secretary Edwin Foulke joined IWSA members, including Mark Weidman, President of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.; Seth Myones, Senior Vice President of Covanta Energy Company; Steve Passage, President of Veolia ES Waste-to-Energy, Inc.; and Ted Michaels, President of IWSA, to sign the Alliance Agreement renewal in a ceremony at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

“This industry has made an important commitment to the hauler safety campaign, which serves as a valuable tool in our efforts to provide an unsurpassed level of safety for our employees, customers, and visitors,” said Myones.

OSHA and the waste-to-energy industry have a long-standing working relationship developed through the initial Alliance and OSHA’s recognition of the stellar health and safety accomplishments at 43 waste-to-energy plants by awarding a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star designation. VPP is designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management and its participants are a select group of facilities that have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs that go well beyond OSHA standards. Of the more than seven million American workplaces, slightly more than 1,800 sites have been awarded VPP status.

“Renewing our Alliance is a natural extension of the positive cooperative relationship that our industry has developed with OSHA,” said Passage. “We look forward to continuing the strong ties that we have formed through this Alliance for years to come,” said Passage.

“The IWSA-OSHA Alliance is a great example of a public-private partnership that achieves success through cooperation. IWSA and its members are proud to renew this Alliance with OSHA,” said Michaels.

The IWSA is a national trade group representing the waste-to-energy industry that safely disposes of municipal solid waste and at the same time generates renewable electricity using modern combustion technology equipped with state-of-the-art pollution control systems. Eighty-nine waste-to-energy facilities operate nationwide. IWSA members include Covanta Energy Corporation, Veolia ES Waste-to-Energy, Inc., and Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., as well as 25 municipalities that are served by waste-to-energy plants and several dozen other organizations that work in the municipal waste management and energy fields.

In March 2002, OSHA created the Alliance Program. This cooperative program enables organizations committed to safety and health to work with OSHA to prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the workplace. OSHA and Alliance participants work together to reach out to, educate, and lead the nation’s employers and their employees in advancing workplace safety and health. Groups that can form an Alliance with OSHA include employers, labor unions, trade or professional groups, and educational institutions.