



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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**Excellence in Environmental
Engineering Awards Committee
American Academy of Environmental Engineers
130 Holiday Court - Suite 100
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Dear Awards Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the SEMASS Resources Recovery Facility by the Energy Answers Corporation, the developers and majority owners of the facility for an Excellence in Environmental Engineering award.

The SEMASS facility is located in Rochester, MA, at the beginning of Cape Cod, and serves the Cape Cod communities and southeastern Massachusetts. The technologically-innovative facility provides safe disposal of solid waste in a manner keeping with the Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan, and is critical to solving the solid waste disposal problems of the entire area.

Energy Answers Corporation has started a regional recycling program to complement the on-site metals separations and reclamation program at SEMASS, thereby providing expanded recycling opportunities for the residents of southeastern Massachusetts. Nearly 79 percent of the solid waste burned by the SEMASS facility is converted into energy; and an additional 5 percent is ferrous and non-ferrous metals that are captured and reclaimed. SEMASS is noted to generate 52 megawatts of electricity per day: enough to serve the needs of 50,000 homes in southeastern Massachusetts.

The most unique feature of the SEMASS facility, and the one that sets Energy Answers Corporation apart from others in innovative environmental engineering, is their ash management process. SEMASS processes its bottom ash, which contains few contaminants, and separates it into Boiler Aggregate™ for recycling as scrap metal and construction material. The small volume of fly ash remaining is then safely stabilized and landfilled. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs believes that projects such as this, which divert materials in the solid waste stream into useful products, represent the type of innovative initiative the Commonwealth welcomes and supports.

SEMASS has also advanced the implementation of the solid waste hierarchy by enabling major Cape Cod communities, previously dependant on landfills, to use a waste-to-energy facility. All of Cape Cod draws its drinking water from a sole-source aquifer that faces many threats, including several unlined municipal landfills. The opening of SEMASS has allowed Cape Cod Communities to begin their landfills, sending their solid waste to SEMASS, and protecting the drinking water resources. In addition, SEMASS employs a state-of-the-art pollution control system, including acid gas scrubbers, that protects the air quality of southeastern Massachusetts.

The SEMASS resource recovery facility has taken a positive, problem-solving approach to solid waste management and has made a noteworthy contribution to the environmental quality of southeastern Massachusetts. Energy Answers Corporation has displayed unique, innovative and thoughtful environmental engineering that is worthy of recognition. I support the nomination of SEMASS for an Excellence in Environmental Engineering Award.

Sincerely,



Susan F. Tierney
Secretary

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