

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 12/15/14 – 7:00 P.M.

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**MRC Proposes Innovative Solid Waste Processing Facility to be Built in Hampden**

In a presentation to the Hampden Town Council on Monday, December 15, the Municipal Review Committee announced its plans to develop a state-of-the-art processing facility to handle the waste from its 187 member communities starting in 2018. This facility will use innovative technology to significantly increase the recycling and reuse of the waste stream and it will replace the current usage of the PERC waste-to-energy incinerator in Orrington.

This proposal does not include a landfill component and will make use of the state's existing landfills for all residuals, ensuring that waste will remain in Hampden no longer than the short time required for processing.

"We're excited that we have secured a location for a project that will both advance our mission and closely align with the state's solid waste policy goals," said Greg Lounder, Executive Director of the MRC.

The MRC is a non-profit association of Maine cities and towns which has managed the solid waste needs of member communities since 1991. Recognizing that the PERC plant will no longer be economically viable after the 2018 end of the current contracts, the MRC has been working with the solid waste technology company Fiberright to plan for a new recycling and biofuels facility. In recent weeks, the group secured an option to purchase land in "the triangle area" of Hampden between I-95, the Cold Brook Road and the Ammo Industrial Park.

The Hampden site offers numerous advantages including distance from residential development and limited truck traffic on local roads with only around 2,000 feet of travel required from a proposed access road to I-95. As part of this project, the MRC will construct new transportation and utility infrastructure that will open up an area that the town has targeted for this kind of development.

"The location of this project has been designated as prime Commercial/Industrial land for many years because of its proximity to transportation corridors and its relative isolation," said Dean Bennett, the Town of Hampden's Economic Development Director. "However, the area has lacked infrastructure and accessibility. The MRC project provides both."

In addition to these infrastructure upgrades, the Town of Hampden will receive revenue from this new facility and reduced costs for the processing of its waste. Planning and development will continue in the coming years with a target of beginning processing in the first half of 2018. The project will be reviewed by the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Hampden Planning Board.

The Municipal Review Committee will further discuss its plans for a processing facility in Hampden at its Annual Meeting at 2:30 on Tuesday, December 16 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

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**Media Availability Notice - MRC Annual Meeting  
2:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 16 – Cross Insurance Center, Bangor**