

Lilita Keire

I support WTE plants such as HERC in the Twin Cities. However, nowhere in the MPCA plan did it discuss the potential pollution generation from HERC or other WTE plants in Minnesota. If the public were aware of how little or how much pollution a WTE such as HERC generates, as compared with landfills, that would go a long way in gaining public support and getting us to that 75% goal. Right now, I don't have a sense of whether a WTE generates air pollution at a greater rate than a landfill or not. This should be common knowledge. If it is not, a PR campaign is needed. Note that Appendix B: Environmental Justice Review does discuss people's health, but it doesn't mention the HERC specifically.

It's too bad that The Elk River Resource Recovery Project (GRE-Elk River) closed due to unsustainable economics. I support the state subsidizing such operations to keep them open. It seems like a real waste to close a functioning facility that is already fit for purpose.

I support opening a new WTE facility outside of the city of Minneapolis, however, so that people can rest easy knowing that the WTE is not a potential health hazard for city residents. If the HERC in Minneapolis poses a health hazard for city residents, the people need to know, and it's time to build a new facility outside of city limits. If it poses little or no health hazard, begin a PR campaign to educate people, so that they begin to support the existing HERC in Minneapolis. Currently, the sentiment of the people who wrote the Minneapolis Plan is that the HERC needs to close. I think they are misguided. I support keeping the HERC open, especially because it pays for itself by generating energy. Seems like a win-win solution, solving at least part of our 7-county waste management problem.