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## **Waste Management's Five Oaks Landfill to Generate Renewable Energy from Landfill Gas**

*New Taylorville facility to generate 3.2 megawatts of electricity, enough power for the equivalent of 2,500 homes in Central Illinois*

**Taylorville, IL, Wednesday, October 24, 2007** -- Officials from Waste Management of Illinois, Inc., the State of Illinois and Christian County today dedicated the Company's latest renewable energy project to harness landfill gas derived from buried garbage.

"At a time when the nation is focused on identifying and securing alternative energy sources, we are demonstrating that landfill gas from buried wastes can provide clean, alternative power to the community," said Steve Fedash, Director of Operations for Waste Management in Central Illinois. "Managing gas from disposed wastes is an important part of the environmental controls in place that enhances the value of the Five Oaks waste management facility."

Joining Waste Management officials at the dedication were Christian County Board Chairman John Curtin, Taylorville Mayor Frank Mathon, State Sen. Deanna DeMuzio and State Rep. Gary Hannig.

The power plant is adjacent to the 213-acre landfill, a disposal site for Central Illinois since 1978. Under construction since spring, the plant is equipped with four large engine/generators.

Each of the Caterpillar-manufactured units generates 1,148 horsepower. Each weighs approximately 26,500 pounds and stands 7-feet in height, 7.5 feet in width and 16 feet in length.

The plant captures the landfill gas, primarily methane, through a network of pipes and wells drilled into the landfill. A vacuum system draws the gas from the landfill and conveys it to the power plant where it is condensed and its impurities removed. The gas

then fuels the engines driving the generators to produce electricity. The landfill gas recovery system includes approximately 3.5 miles of pipe and 51 gas extraction wells.

The facility will initially process up to 1,200 cubic feet of landfill gas per minute and is expected to generate enough fuel to drive the engines for several decades. The gas previously was flared.

The power plant's electricity will be introduced into the power grid operated by the Central Illinois electric utility, Ameren. As the volume of gas generated by the landfill changes over time, the number and size of the engine/generator sets will be adjusted to most match the available fuel.

"Landfill gas offers Illinois an energy alternative that represents both good environmental management and technological innovation, while lessening our dependence on fossil fuels," Fedash said. "The Five Oaks plant is building on Waste Management's nearly three decades of experience in providing clean, renewable energy that comes from the waste we all generate."

Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. is a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc, a North American leader in waste-based energy programs. The Company, which today generates enough energy for the equivalent of 1 million homes, has implemented a corporate-wide program to double its energy output by 2020, generating power for the equivalent of more than 2 million homes. The Company announced plans in June for a major expansion of its landfill-gas-to-energy program. An additional 60 renewable energy facilities, to its existing 104 facilities, are planned over the next five years that with existing facilities will generate more than 700 megawatts of clean renewable energy – enough to power 700,000 homes.

In Illinois, the Company has 11 landfill-gas-to-energy projects, which combined generate nearly 44 megawatts, equivalent to powering nearly 40,000 households.

Waste Management has a specialized renewable energy group, which works closely with businesses, industries and public utilities to develop landfill gas-to-energy and waste-to-energy projects that provide an economical and environmental alternative to fossil fuels.

### **About Waste Management**

*Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Our subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. We are also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. Our customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. More information about how Waste Management Thinks Green® can be found at [www.wm.com/wm/thinkgreen](http://www.wm.com/wm/thinkgreen).*

*The Company, from time to time, provides estimates of financial and other data, comments on expectations relating to future periods and makes statements of opinion, view or belief about current and future events. Statements relating to future events and performance are "forward-looking statements." The forward-looking statements that the Company makes are the Company's expectations, opinion, view or belief at the point in time of issuance but may change at some future point in time. By issuing estimates or making statements based on current expectations, opinions, views or*

*beliefs, the Company has no obligation, and is not undertaking any obligation, to update such estimates or statements or to provide any other information relating to such estimates or statements. Outlined below are some of the risks that the Company faces and that could affect our financial statements for 2007 and beyond and that could cause actual results to be materially different from those that may be set forth in forward-looking statements made by the Company. However, they are not the only risks that the Company faces. There may be additional risks that we do not presently know or that we currently believe are immaterial which could also impair our business. We caution you not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of their dates. The following are some of the risks that we face:*

- competition may negatively affect our profitability or cash flows, our price increases may have negative effects on volumes and price roll-backs and lower than average pricing to retain and attract customers may negatively affect our yield on base business;*
- we may be unable to maintain or expand margins if we are unable to control costs;*
- we may not be able to successfully execute or continue our operational or other margin improvement plans and programs, including pricing increases; passing on increased costs to our customers; reducing costs due to our operational improvement programs; and divesting under-performing assets and purchasing accretive businesses, any of which could negatively affect our revenues and margins;*
- weather conditions cause our quarter-to-quarter results to fluctuate, and extremely harsh weather or natural disasters may cause us to temporarily shut down operations;*
- inflation and resulting higher interest rates as well as other general and local economic conditions may negatively affect the volumes of waste generated, our financing costs and other expenses;*
- possible changes in our estimates of site remediation requirements, final capping, closure and post-closure obligations, compliance and regulatory developments may increase our expenses;*
- regulations, including regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions, may negatively impact our business by, among other things, restricting our operations, increasing costs of operations or requiring additional capital expenditures;*
- if we are unable to obtain and maintain permits needed to open, operate, and/or expand our facilities, our results of operations will be negatively impacted;*
- limitations or bans on disposal or transportation of out-of-state or cross-border waste or certain categories of waste can increase our expenses and reduce our revenues;*
- fuel price increases or fuel supply shortages may increase our expenses, including our tax expense if Section 45K credits are phased out due to continued high crude oil prices, or restrict our ability to operate;*
- increased costs to obtain financial assurance or the inadequacy of our insurance coverages could negatively impact our liquidity and increase our liabilities;*
- possible charges as a result of shut-down operations, uncompleted development or expansion projects or other events may negatively affect earnings;*
- fluctuating commodity prices may have negative effects on our operating revenues and expenses;*
- trends requiring recycling, waste reduction at the source and prohibiting the disposal of certain types of wastes could have negative effects on volumes of waste going to landfills and waste-to-energy facilities;*
- efforts by labor unions to organize our employees may increase operating expenses and we may be unable to negotiate acceptable collective bargaining agreements with those who have been chosen to be represented by unions, which could lead to union-initiated work stoppages, including strikes, which could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows;*
- negative outcomes of litigation or threatened litigation or governmental proceedings may increase our costs, limit our ability to conduct or expand our operations, or limit our ability to execute our business plans and strategies; problems with the operation of our current information technology or the development and deployment of new information systems may decrease our efficiencies and increase our costs to operate;*

- *the adoption of new accounting standards or interpretations may cause fluctuations in reported quarterly results of operations or adversely impact our reported results of operations; and*
- *we may reduce or eliminate our dividend or share repurchase program or we may need to raise additional capital if cash flows are less than we expect or capital expenditures are more than we expect, and we may not be able to obtain any needed capital on acceptable terms.*

*Additional information regarding these and/or other factors that could materially affect results and the accuracy of the forward-looking statements contained herein may be found in Part I, Item 1 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.*

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