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From: Materials & Energy Recovery (MER) Division

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The MER Division, in consultation with WTE experts in research and operations, including ASME's Research Committee on Environment and Waste position statement articulated by Energy Recovery Council, Local Government Coalition on Renewable Energy, Municipal Waste Management Association, Solid Waste Association of North America, and U.S. Conference of Mayors in their "Policy Position and Background on the Management of Baghouse Filter Bags at Waste-to-Energy Facilities":

Management of filter bags within the WTE facility is a safe procedure that complies with EPA guidelines by preventing emissions or other releases to the environment. In that regard, filter bag removal occurs infrequently (during scheduled and unscheduled outages), and the state-of-the art air pollution control systems that WTE facilities employ to meet stringent permit conditions are designed to maximize capture of all pollutants of concern, including emissions during the periods when spent filter bags are in the combustion process, thus assuring full protection of the environment.

Furthermore, MER will be developing a fact based analysis of the practice of recycling filter bags into the boiler to be released at a later date.

Approved on June 14, 2013 by MER executive committee