



NEWS RELEASE

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COVANTA FAIRFAX, INC., IN LORTON, VIRGINIA RECEIVES ITS THIRD VIRGINIA “STAR” RECERTIFICATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY’S (DOLI) VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS

RICHMOND, VA – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that Covanta Fairfax, Inc. in Lorton, Virginia, has been recertified as a Virginia STAR Worksite under the Virginia’s Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), the agency’s highest level of recognition for excellence in safety and health management systems. The facility was honored with its third recertification since being originally certified on October 29, 2008. Covanta Fairfax, Inc. is a company of Covanta Holding Corporation.

“I am very proud of Covanta Fairfax, Inc., for embodying the Virginia VPP commitment to safety and health excellence, day in and day out”, said Commissioner Davenport. “I commend and congratulate the employees and management of Covanta Fairfax, Inc.’s facility on their hard earned recertification as a Virginia STAR Worksite.”

Covanta Fairfax, Inc.’s commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its low injury and illness rates. The Fairfax facility has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 0.7 compared with a 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 1.3, representing a TCIR rate 46% lower than the national average for the industry. The site's three-year average DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred injury and illness cases) is 0.3, compared with the 1.3 national rate, which is 73% below the national average for the industry.

As part of the recognition for achieving Virginia STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the Virginia “STAR Worksite” flag. The Covanta Fairfax, Inc. facility is the first of two Covanta STAR Worksites in Virginia and is one of 35 Covanta VPP STAR sites currently in

the United States. VPP includes two levels of participation, Merit and STAR, with Virginia STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching Virginia STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the very best companies qualify. Since the inception of Virginia STAR in 1996, only 71 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 34 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR/Merit designation. Covanta Fairfax, Inc.'s site has set a standard of excellence second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer, and the employees which include the agreement of company leaders to operate exceptional safety and health management systems that meet a rigorous set of occupational safety and health criteria. Employers agree to voluntarily participate in the program and to directly involve employees in all aspects of the company's safety and health management systems. Requirements include an extensive application process, submission of written safety and health policies and procedures, demonstration of successful implementation of those programs through injury and illness rates that are below the national average for the employer's industry, and an intensive weeklong inspection by a team of VPP experts.

Virginia businesses that participate in VPP substantially improve safety and health protections for thousands of Virginia employees through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents. VPP STAR sites regularly report decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates (an average of approximately 60% below the respective industry average), and improved productivity and employee morale. Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents enhances a company's economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion, and new hiring.

DOLI operates five voluntary protection and recognition programs. The [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#) (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer is operated by the DOLI Consultative Services Division. Contact Tracy Fitzpatrick, Consultation Program Manager, at (804) 786-8707 or tracy.fitzpatrick@doli.virginia.gov.

[Virginia Voluntary Protection Programs](#) (VVPP) operates [Virginia STAR](#); and [Virginia BEST](#) (**B**uilding **E**xcellence in **S**afety, Health and **T**raining), which is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Associated General Contractors of Virginia ([AGCVA](#)) that recognizes AGCVA members who voluntarily implement highly effective safety and health management systems to benefit construction workers and reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses, and fatalities on construction sites in Virginia. [Virginia CHALLENGE](#) is a three stage process that dramatically improves safety and health at the worksite and prepares the company to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. The [VOSH-VADOC CHALLENGE](#) is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to recognize safety and health excellence at correctional facilities around the Commonwealth. Three stages of participation in VADOC Challenge prepare a site to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. Virginia has the only two correctional facilities in the nation to have received VPP STAR status, Augusta and Lunenburg Correctional Centers. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at www.doli.virginia.gov or contact Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager, at (540) 562-3580, ext. 123, or Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov.

DOLI also offers free [On-Site Consultation Services](#) to help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees and all services are offered to employers at no cost. On-Site Consultation Services helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards by conducting walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), abatement advice, on-site training, and program assistance to develop safety and health programs. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at www.doli.virginia.gov or by contacting Tracy Fitzpatrick, Consultation Program Manager, at (804) 786-8707, or tracy.fitzpatrick@doli.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The Virginia State Plan, at the time of initial publication of this document on April 2, 2020, is funded by a grant of \$3,921,300 federal funds, which constitutes 48% of the

State Plan budget. Zero percent, or \$0.00 of the State Plan budget, is financed through non-governmental sources.

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