

Dickerson Area Facility Reported Concerns and Activities – 1st Quarter FY26

1. On June 26, 2025, DEP received a report of loud noises at the RRF this morning beginning about 4 a.m. and lasting until 4:08 a.m. Also, visible smoke from the RRF stack was reported simultaneously. The sound heard was described as puffing and gasping as if the plant was struggling to operate.

Reworld staff were contacted and checked with the night crew working during the reported incident. The night crew reported no unusual operational issues at the RRF, and nobody heard abnormal loud noises.

A review of the online continuous emissions data showed Unit 1 was offline and Units 2 and 3 were operating within permitted emissions parameters.

A review of the camera stack video footage for that date and time showed forceful intermittent steam emissions from a vent on the building's roof, which was likely the source of noise described as puffing and gasping. According to Reworld, during normal operations, the combustion units process varying BTU-valued fuels, which can cause steam pressure fluctuations. All steam systems in the facility have safety relief valves that vent to the roof through a silencer to help reduce noise.

2. On August 4, 2025, DEP received a report of a possible fire at the RRF the night of July 31, 2025.

Lonnie Heflen reported that he sent an email notification about this incident on 8/1/25 to DAFIG and SCA. The notification stated that on July 31, 2025, at approximately 11 PM, there was a fire at the RRF near Unit 1. 911 was called, and several fire departments were on the scene promptly and had the fire out by 12:30 AM. The damage to Unit 1 is being assessed, and Reworld is preparing a full incident report. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Reworld provided the following additional information:

- The fire appears to have been caused by hot or burning material igniting hydraulic oil near Feeder #3 on Unit 1.
 - The hydraulic oil source was a leaking hydraulic cylinder that allowed hydraulic fluid to contact the sifting hopper. The cylinder is not directly visible when in operation. The facility uses Shell Ecosafe hydraulic fluid with a flash point of 527°F.
 - The sifting hopper periodically receives unburnt shredded material from the friction of the feeders over the feed table. This unburnt material can ignite in the sifting hopper, which is what appeared to be the ignition point. The hot sifting hopper ignited the hydraulic fluid. The control trench-way, containing poly and steel lines, fueled the fire as the fire traveled the trench-way to the control cabinet.
- The controls in the hydraulic cabinet could not be repaired.
 - Many of the parts needed are no longer available from the manufacturer.
 - Reworld's Marion County, Oregon, facility (recently closed) used the same controls as the RRF.

- Reworld salvaged the controls from the Marion facility and shipped them to the RRF.
- As of Thursday, 8/14/2025, repairs are complete, and Unit 1 is being tested.
- Reworld's maintenance team worked late on Friday, 8/15, and Saturday, 8/16, to resolve electrical issues with the controls.
- Unit 1 was back online Sunday, 8/17/2025, around 2 pm.