

New Refuse Trucks Serving Newark



New Jersey city updates aging fleet.

Newark, NJ, has purchased ten refuse collection trucks to pick up solid waste from homes across the city. Each vehicle cost about \$175,000 and was paid for from the city's capital budget and Homeland Security grants. According to Dr. Colleen Walter, Director of Neighborhood and Recreational Services, which controls the Division of Sanitation, the vehicles could be used in an emergency to remove debris from a natural or man-made disaster, which justified the use of Homeland Security funds.

Each McNeilus Packer Crane Chassis (McNeilus Companies Inc., www.mcneiluscompanies.com), made by Air Brake and Equipment Company (Hillside, NJ) can haul up to 32 cu yd of refuse—one yard higher than older vehicles—for a total of 20 tons. The new trucks also offer crews

better seating, air-conditioning and heat, and power windows.

The division of sanitation's solid waste collection operation consists of collection by both city services and private vendors. The city collects refuse and bulk from about two-thirds of the city using a five-day schedule. Currently, Waste Management, Inc. (www.wm.com) collects the remaining area. The city uses between 26 and 30 refuse vehicles daily, with Waste Management utilizing eight to ten trucks every day. The total type ten household refuse collected and disposed of is about 100,000 tons annually. Bulk waste collected and disposed of is 30,000 tons a year.

An Aging Fleet

The city's decision to purchase the new trucks was based partly on the fact that the current fleet was aging, said

Newark Engineering Director James Adams. "The average age of our refuse collection fleet was 11 years old," he said. The new units will replace decommissioned trucks as well as aging vehicles that would require costly repairs. Also, additional refuse collection vehicles ensure efficient solid waste collection operations to keep up with increased demands created by the redevelopment and new construction taking place throughout the city.

Among the vehicles' features is a cab-over type chassis with a low entry profile, an in-cab standing height of more than six ft, and seating for four. The vehicle's configuration provides the driver with high visibility. The packer body has a low profile hopper for easier loading. The packer body uses a cylindrical shape technology for improved packing and longer life. Both the chassis and the packer are designed for easy maintenance. These vehicles are equipped with Caterpillar (www.cat.com) engines that meet new higher emission guidelines with dependability.

To maintain these new trucks, the division of sanitation has an existing preventive maintenance program that prepares vehicles for both DOT and roadside inspections. The division's employees perform maintenance and minor repairs. Newark's Division of Motor Vehicles, part of the engineering department, and private vendors under contract with the city conduct more intensive and major repairs.

Having rolled into action early this year, the vehicles immediately gained rave reviews from their drivers and crews. Drivers report ease of operation, increased power, and cab comfort with convenient use of controls. Laborers are experiencing increased cab comfort, easy loading, and additional storage for tools and gear. **GE**



One of ten new garbage trucks being used by the Newark Sanitation Division to remove trash stands ready for inspection by Mayor Sharpe James in front of City Hall. Photo by William Ramos.