

Alpine drops plans to use petroleum coke

CZM hearing postponed as plan is reworked

By **JOY BLACKBURN**
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — A Coastal Zone Management permit hearing on a proposed waste to energy plant scheduled for Tuesday has been postponed after Alpine Energy Group temporarily withdrew its application for the permit.

Alpine made the request because it is working on retooling its agreement with the V.I. Water and Power Authority to no longer use any petroleum coke at the proposed plant, said Andy Hixson, Alpine's vice-president for Environmental and

Permitting.

"We felt that it would be a much stronger message if we went in there with our application saying that pet coke will not be used at all," Hixson said in an interview.

In March, after widespread public opposition to Alpine's plan to build two energy plants — one on St. Thomas and one on St. Croix — that would burn both garbage and petroleum coke, Alpine, Waste Management and WAPA went back to the drawing board.

A revised proposal cut the project in half, with plans to build garbage-processing facilities on both islands,

but only one power plant — which Alpine is proposing to build on St. Croix on a peninsula directly south of Anguilla Landfill.

Although the revised proposal had the plant using refuse-derived fuel from both islands as the main source of energy, petroleum coke remained a backup power source if there was not enough refuse-derived fuel to maintain the required energy output.

Hixson said Friday that Alpine temporarily withdrew the CZM application with the intent of removing petroleum coke from the picture altogether.

He said the company felt that residents might be more comfortable with the project if the burning of petroleum coke is not a possibility under the pro-

posal. Reworking the contract is taking time, Hixson said.

Alpine will have to wait at least three weeks to reactivate a reworked CZM application after requesting the delay, and will likely reactivate the application between Oct. 15 and Nov. 1, Hixson said.

After that, it will be at least 30 days — possibly longer — before another hearing, he said, noting that the company is required to post notice of the hearing date at least 30 days before it occurs.

Paul Chakroff, executive director of the St. Croix Environmental Association, said the plan to remove petroleum coke burning from the proposal is welcome news.

"That's a tremendous improvement from an environmental standpoint," he said. "If finally we've got the pet coke out of there, that's something we've been calling for since day one."

Chakroff noted, however, that the nonprofit has other concerns about the application, including the proposed location of the power plant on the peninsula south of the landfill and what the association sees as severe deficiencies in Alpine's environmental assessment report.

Chakroff said he will be eager to see how those issues are addressed when the application is reactivated.

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Golf tournament raises more than \$200,000 for Beacon Schools

By **SEAN McCOY**
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Local golfers paired up with visiting celebrities for a round of best-ball Sunday afternoon at the Mahogany Run Golf Course in the 14th annual Beacon Schools Celebrity Golf Classic.

But when the final scores were tabulated and the handicaps counted, the students of the Beacon Schools of the Virgin Islands were the biggest winners of all. Organizers said this year's tournament raised more than \$200,000 for the after-school program.

"That's about one third of our budget," said Pam Lancaster, executive director of the program.

Beacon Schools of the Virgin Islands is an after-school program that has seven sites in the territory. The schools provide tutoring for students and offer adult classes in computers, parenting and English as a second language.

There are 3,000 people enrolled in the USVI program, which receives the part-time expertise from 158 teachers territorywide.

Over the weekend, 23 celebrities converged on St. Thomas to support the tournament. Activities at the Ritz Carlton Hotel & Resort, including an



Daily News Photo by SEAN McCOY

David Mobley, left, Chris Sealey, Cheryl Talkington and Lance Talkington celebrate their victory in the Beacon Schools Celebrity Golf Tournament after scoring a 54 gross in the best-ball format on Sunday.

auction that raised about \$93,000 and a beach barbecue, kept them busy before the tournament.

Some even visited Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on Friday to visit with students.

On Sunday, it was time for competition on the golf course, where the

foursome of David Mobley, Lance Talkington, Cheryl Talkington and Chris Sealey hit the best gross score of 53.

The team benefited from distance off the tee box from Mobley, who is a long-drive champion.

"We had a partner who hits it a long

Beacon Schools Celebrity Golf Tournament results		
1*	Gross 53	David Mobley, Lance Talkington, Cheryl Talkington, Chris Sealey
2	Gross 53	Stephen Flesch, Raymond Berkeley, Robert Behling, Mike Cumbermack
3	Gross 56	David Duerson, Doug Menzies, Mae Menzies, Joe Zeppuhar
<hr/>		
1	Net 46	Skip Kendall, Rob Campbell, Ray Perez, Franklin Quow
2	Net 48	Joel Murray, Dan Singh, Taylor Singh, John Doyle
3	Net 52	Dennis Rasmussen, Dan Kirby, Richard Berry, Maria Prendergast
<hr/>		
Long drive		Ladies: Lisa Schmidt Men: Chris Doleman
Closest to pin		Ladies: Allison Bourne-Vanneck Men: Doug Menzies
* won by tiebreaker		

way," joked Cheryl Talkington.

Lance Talkington said the group played well together, with everyone contributing to the great score.

"It was one of those days when everyone had something to give," Lance said. "The putts were falling."

The team of Skip Kendall, Rob Campbell, Ray Perez and Franklin

Quow won the lowest net score with a 46.

Lancaster said the tournament went very smoothly.

"It seems like we have it so finely tuned now," Lancaster said. "This was probably our best tournament ever."

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